

Ross Dowson archives – correspondence -- Year 1985

- 01_03 Minutes of the Forward Group, Toronto (RD rec. sec`ty.), re: Metro Toronto NDP convention preparations; federal convention preparations; Left Caucus
- 01_23 Letter to the Editor, *Socialist Action* (USA), re: Canadian unions` desire for autonomy vs. international unity
- 02_00 (*R.D. 's handwritten notes*) "Fact sheet on NDP evolution" on it's anti-NATO position
- 03_14 +Minutes of Forward Group: analysis of a LC proposal to dump opposition to Canada's role in NATO; Gord D. to run as NDP candidate in York Mills, Left Caucus conference plans
- 03_25 Letter to *Socialist Action*, San Francisco, re: separate Canadian unions not a matter of principle with us, but this is the direction of the mainstream CLC; a response from Nat Weinstein, S.A. (US)
- 03_30 Notes to self re: Left Caucus conference
- 04_09 +Minutes of meeting of Forward Group: Gord D. as NDP candidate will centre on issue opposing public funding for Catholic schools
- 05_07 Minutes of Forward Group (RD rec. sec`ty.) re: entry on report by Gord (D.) on York Mills NDP campaign (opposed to public funding of Catholic schools); on the federal election and beyond
- 05_15 Minutes of Forward Group (RD rec. sec`ty.) re: Metro Toronto NDP and "New Democrats for Preserving Public Education" (NDPPE) against public funding of Catholic schools; Left Caucus preparations for federal convention
- 05_28 Minutes of Forward Group (RD rec. sec`ty.) re: entry on report by Gord (D.) on NDP facing minority government; entry on Socialist Rights Defence Fund (SRDF) report by Harry (K.)
- 05_98 (*R.D. handwritten drafts, undated & found in May 1985*): resolutions against public funding for RC schools
- 05_99 Undated report, re: "Dowson draft of election report to York Mills;" on impact of NDPPE campaign on the election results
- 06_11 Minutes of Forward Group (RD rec. sec`ty.) re: discussion on Left Caucus` links across country, NDPPE campaign organizing

06_18 Notes of ONDP Left Caucus Steering Cttee (by RD): need for a meeting to discuss preparations for two NDP conventions

07_10 Minutes of Forward Group (RD rec. sec`ty.) re: entry re report by Dave (T.) on federal NDP convention

07_16 Minutes of Forward Group (RD rec. sec`ty.) re: report by RD on the Left Caucus and the need for LC Newsletter

07_31 +Minutes of Ward 6 NDP meeting (handwritten by R.D.): RD unsuccessfully challenges riding to open nominations for candidates; opposes endorsation of quasi-NDP candidates; motion for NDP label candidates for Board of Education

08_09 Minutes of Forward Group (RD rec. sec`ty.) re: tense atmosphere within Left Caucus; planning for a November conference

08_12 Letter to Laura Cole, F.I.T, New York, re: our activities 1) *Left Caucus Newsletter* has appeared; FI recognizes a Canadian section; 3) anti-war brief presented to parliament 4) our counter-policy brief to 50th anniversary of CCF-NDP

08_12B Letter to Abie (W.), re: RD laments Abie's departure from Marxism into individualistic, symbolic acts of defiance

08_13 Letter to Dick (P.), Vancouver, re: Left Caucus at federal convention fight to preserve anti-NATO stance of NDP; the defeats and rightward movement of the leadership

08_14 Letter to Ruth Bullock, North Vancouver, re: success of the Left Caucus at convention, waging the struggle of the NDPPE; West Coast interest in F.I.T. (New York) and crisis in the SWP

08_22 Minutes of Forward Group (RD rec. sec`ty.) re: membership & contacts; ONDP Left Caucus fund drive; LC Steering Cttee discussions on NDPPE and other issues

08_26 Notes to John G. of *Saskatchewan Commonwealth* re weak convention reportage; Sept. 6 note to Tom B. re his RWL analysis

09_13 Letter to Fred Callaghan, re: why not draw up a resolution on unemployment and the shorter work week for his upcoming Steelworkers' convention

09_13B Minutes of Forward Group (RD rec. sec`ty.) re: misc. business of the group and working contacts

09_24 Minutes of Forward Group (RD rec. sec`ty.) re: report of Left Caucus Steering Cttee. Meeting; NDPPE; NDP Anti-war Cttee

- 10_04 Minutes of Forward Group (RD rec. sec`ty.) re: discussion of Left Caucus position on the NDP-Liberal Accord; Judy (R.) on NDPPE and slate; municipal elections; NDPPE; NDP anti-war committee
- 10_18 Minutes of Forward Group (RD rec. sec`ty.) re: group educational program; NDPPE meets re its name with Michael Lewis; MTAC
- 11_04 Letter to Anne (D.), Ottawa, re: discussion on the new Solski book on Mine-Mill (*Stalinist controlled union—ed.*); Toronto Left Caucus
- 11_06 Minutes of Forward Group (RD rec. sec`ty.) re: Left Caucus discussion re Judy R. slate candidacy around Catholic school funding and support for Morgentaler abortion clinics
- 11_13 Letter to *Transformation*, Saskatoon, re: report on Socialist Rights Defence Fund and the status of actions against the RCMP
- 11_29 Minutes of Forward Group (RD rec. sec`ty.) re: discussion on membership & contacts; Left Caucus report on the conference; slate preparations for upcoming NDP convention
- 12_04 Letter to Serge (D.), Ottawa, re: history of Ukrainian Canadians` opposition and figures from early days of the CPC; Mandel and Hansen`s rejection of the Canadian orientation to the CCF-NDP; our polemic against the subversion of this policy within the LSA
- 12_11 Letter to the Editor of the (Toronto) *Star*, re: on the statue of Sun Yat-sen recently erected in Toronto
- 12_17 +Minutes of Forward Group: brief reports on ongoing campaigns and political developments
- 12-99. (*R.D. notes on the founding of the Canadian Autoworkers Union -- see W15a-1985*)

Minutes Forward Group meeting in Toronto January 3, 1985

Chairperson - Gord D , secretary Ross D, present; Harry, Ross, Angie, Gord
Agenda adopted

Minutes of December 3 and Dec 17 read and adopted as is

Membership and contacts. Successful turn-out at New Years Social at Gord & Roz - 35 to 40 in attendance. Motion by Harry K that we hold another social under the auspices of the Socialist Rights Defence Fund at Sabina's home on either Feb 16 or 23rd. agreed. Precise date to be established at next branch meeting. Small Claims Court case coming up Feb 8 from which we may get some useful publicity. Ross and Harry agreed to work on this project.
NDP -MTAC- convention Feb 23 . At this time it is not clear what the main issues of concern will be. It would seem clear that the leadership has decided not to contest the mayoralty although the incumbent Eggleton is at this time without a serious opposition. Motion that we press for the running of an official candidate for Mayor of Toronto. Agreed. It would appear that several persons already on Council are thinking in terms of running for provincial office however a provincial election would probably be held in June-July with the city elections in late fall so there need be no conflict. Suggested that we urge Gilbert to run for mayor although he is seeking a provincial seat. Discussion on alternatives--if MTAC leadership shows no inclination to contest. Thought that the Left Caucus could not conceive of its putting forward someone. Thought also that to put someone like Dowson forward who could not conceivably get MTAC endorsement would not serve our purposes at this juncture when the NDP is well represented on all other levels of the elections. The discussion affirmed the need for MTAC to present a mayoralty candidate in this period of massive unemployment and nuclear threat and that we press for this at the pre-convention discussions. Agreed that we also protest the involvement of 3 NDP alderman in secret deal with Campeau that violates the city plan on a colossal scale - possibly under the item of accountability which was postponed from last convention for this one. Noted that Dave absent with no known reason but in the light of the need to give the MTAC leadership time to prepare a substitute within the next month that we discuss his continuing to hold office in what the leadership has allowed to degenerate into an empty manipulative tool. It was agreed that Gord D inform Dave that the meeting was unanimous in its recommendation that he inform them he is resigning at this convention

NDP -federal convention preparations- Ross reported that Gord and Zane's work is progressing in pulling together material for the federal convention debate on NATO. Wayne wants to collaborate immediately following New Year holiday. Doctorow reported that anti-war committee is organizing a public forum popularizing the official party position in light of developments across the world. Date will be set shortly. He reported that he is submitting Heap's and his contribution at the provincial council to the Ont NDP paper for publication

NDP -Left Caucus. Meeting with Lois B and George E came off at Kasher's home- Ross felt that it was very amicable but so much so that it was difficult to be sure what decisions were made. and duration of labor It was agreed to go ahead with the Toronto meeting elections of Steering Committee and with an Ontario wide meeting on NATO where Gord would be asked to speak. It was agreed rather than hold it in Queen's Park facilities that we try to get the B of E facilities. Harry reported on discussion with Dave that rather than solicit lump sums from selected LC supporters that the LC hold a fund raising social to clear up debt

Educational. Dowson reported that he has prepared what he considers to be a valuable educational on Nicaragua and its electoral challenge to the USSR and Cuba. Motion that it be presented at next meeting--agreed.
The Next Forward Group meeting will be January 14 at Richmond St quarters.
meeting adjourned

To the Editor
Socialist Action

It is good to see Socialist Action carrying material on Canadian unionist's struggle to establish control of their own unions. The only problem is that Nat Weinstein's arguments in his January article "Canadian split weakens auto workers union" place Socialist Action on the wrong side.

Canadian director Robert White's "demands" for autonomy which the class collaboration bureaucrats ensconced in Detroit rejected without so much as a discussion outside of their own cosy self-perpetuating 25-man club that answers only to itself are skipped over leaving the implication that in some way they were unreasonable and Bieber's rejections justified --all in the interests, of course, of autoworkers unity.

Weinstein deplores; "Had GM workers on both sides of the border struck together.." But that is just what Bieber's "give-aways" did not allow to happen. As for the question as to whether Canadian workers are intrinsically more militant - or have a greater capacity for struggle - interesting, but quite irrelevant to the question at hand.

The Canadian workers want unity to fight the auto-bosses, but they want to run their own show in collaboration with US autoworkers which means, among other matters that came up, control of their own strike funds. The question of democratic rights ~~which~~ of Canadian unionists still caught up in the bureaucratically controlled machinery of the so-called "internationals" is a highly explosive one. More and more Canadian unionists are establishing their autonomous rights in opposition to the US bureaucrats and hence outside of the "internationals".

Robert White is by no means a militant, nor is he a maverick. His stance at the December 10 showdown had the support ~~of~~, almost unanimous support, of the broadly based Canadian Council. The fact that he did not call a referendum vote was not at all in fear that he did not have an overwhelming majority but more likely in agreement with the rest of the Canadian Labour Congress executive to carry it off "cold", not to inflame the passions of the ranks and thereby heighten their anticipations. For this is certainly an explosive situation that threatens to blow up all the conservatizing decrepit structures that are a barrier to the unions struggling for and winning such critical demands as the sliding scale of hours. Some persons who should know better have dismissed this struggle for union democracy, for Canadian autonomy with the ~~pejorative~~ term "Canadian nationalism."

~~with the same term~~ in solidarity

Ross Dowson

Ross Dowson, #2311
40 Homewood Ave.,
Toronto, M4Y2K2
January 23, 1985

*March 15
John Bender saw this
letter in SA (with cuts)*

*Cut out
RD
Cut out paper
March 15*

label they use pejoratively as "

act sheet

1960 — See Fwd file CC See Pluto almanac NDP evolution
CCF adopts anti NATO position Feb/85

1961 Founding convention of NDP after sharp debate
adopts policy of supporting Cdn participation in NATO
US in Vietnam NATO supports military regimes

1969 adopts policy for Canada's withdrawal from NATO — NORAD

1981 Broadbent favors Party support of US President Carter's doctrine
with Pauline Jewett protesting

1981 party convention confirmed 1969 policy stating that A NDP govt will
not be a member of NATO alliance

Jan 1985 Communiqué from Intl affairs comm favors
participation in NORAD. Party presses ~~that~~ ^{for} conversion
should ~~adopt the policy~~ ^{to support Cdn member} in NATO
insofar as there appears that there is hope of progress toward
disengagement, escalation + disarmament. Should there be no continued
Cdn membership. Should there be no substantial evidence
of progress in NATO toward such fundamental changes
and NDP govt would withdraw Canada from NATO

Sept 1960 — Last convention as NDP voted "Since NATO has been a purely military
organization, Canada should immediately withdraw from NATO" vote 85 to 72

Such convention influence prior went on record as being unilateral disavowal
cessation of all arms expenditures withdrawal from NATO disavowal of all
US bases + removal of US service personnel from Canada + immediate
withdrawal of Cdn forces from Europe

Aug 1961 — Founding convention of NDP. which 24 resolutions on NATO and immediate
withdrawal

Resolution finally passed while conceding that economic aid issues had not been implemented
and declared that Canada could not remain in NATO command forces were no clear
armed

See Norcross's guard Nov July 1960

Gartshore interview — under a full page headline expressed view that Gartshore
"would deeply regret a Cdn decision to withdraw from NATO..."
Douglas who on show before.

Minutes of the Forward Group March 14, 1985- Toronto

Chair-- Harry K. Dowson volunteered to be secretary

Attendance-- Ross, Harry, Gord, B , Dave, Angie

Absent with known reason- Kasher in Ottawa

Membership- Discussion of poor attendance and lack of involvement in Group activity by John D. Motion that Harry K have a talk with him. agreed

Education by Harry K- an analysis of Simon Rosenblum's contribution to the Left Caucus discussion on the party leadership proposed dumping of its opposition to Canada's participation in ~~NATO~~ NATO. ~~Thax~~ Kopyto's contribution was a rounded critique effectively preparing the Group for intervention in the riding and convention discussions. It lead to a stimulating ~~discussion~~ discussion in the Group in which everyone was involved. The argumentation is so good from the opening observation that Rosenblum essentially accepts the generally rejected theory of deterrence thereby accepting the nuclear arms drive and ends up supporting a nuclear military alliance that rather than attempt to synopsise it a copy is appended to these minutes

NDP- report by Gord on York Mills. The riding is moving towards settling the question as to who will be the party's provincial election candidate. In the face of considerable enthusiasm from a core of activists that he run Gord has agreed to put forward his name for nomination on April 15. Motion that we approve this initiative- passed unan.

ONDP Antoiwar committee. The committee is moving out to have impact on party's debate on NATO policy. Meeting of May 9 at OISE shaping up.

Pauline Jewett and Major-General Johnson have agreed to be among the speakers

Left Caucus conference report by Dave. Preparations well underway. Have yet to nail down contributors to the Saturday ~~Session~~ session. Lois B questioned certain aspects of the conference section itself - the persons heading the panels, ~~lack of~~ lack of involvement of the Caucus activists, etc. It has been agreed that we will attempt to open up the "from the floor" ~~participation~~ participation to contributions of a more extended character from caucus activists. A mailing of several items relevant to the NATO debate has gone out to all supporters. The leaflet promoting conference is being posted at key locations.

Minutes of the previous meeting to be presented at the next ~~meeting~~ meeting on March 26

Ross Dowson, #2311
Toronto, M4Y 2K2, Canada
March 25, 1985

Socialist Action
San Francisco

Comrades;

No, I don't think that the separation of Canadian workers in their own union centrals from the U.S.-based so-called "internationals" [although the norm in other advanced capitalist states] is a matter of principle, as Nat Weinstein suggests I may in his reply to my letter reproduced in your March issue. Although other than the Francophone workers organized in the Quebec union centrals there are 40,000 Canadian unionists organized in the Council of Canadian Unions who do think that it is a matter of principle.

But that is certainly the direction of the mainstream Canadian Labour Congress which encompasses most Canadian members of the U.S.-based unions in this nation-state called Canada. It is not many years ago that CLC delegates in national convention and with great enthusiasm passed a series of autonomy guidelines for the adherence of all affiliates. The Beiber leadership of the Autoworkers was among those who had been more flexible in complying with the guidelines than others--but apparently not sufficiently so. The latest resistance comes from the top brass of the Labourers' Union which has just put one of its largest Canadian locals under a U.S. national office trusteeship.

While union membership in the U.S. stagnates, in Canada it continues to grow. The national unions affiliated to the Canadian Labour Congress have now for the first time more members in their ranks than the U.S.-based unions. Furthermore they are mobilizing the worker in the new and high-tech industries, a great many of them women who are putting fresh air in labour's sails. Reagan and Weinberger through their perilous manipulation of their junior partners in Ottawa are further stimulating the whole process.

in solidarity

Ross Dowson

A criticism

Dear editor,

It is good to see *Socialist Action* carrying material on unionists' struggles to establish control of their own unions. The only problem is that Nat Weinstein's arguments in his January 1985 article, "Canadian split weakens auto workers union," place *Socialist Action* on the wrong side.

Canadian director Robert White's "demands" for autonomy, which the class-collaborationist bureaucrats in Detroit rejected without so much as a discussion, are skipped over in Weinstein's article. The implication is left that in some way these "demands" were unreasonable and Bieber's rejections justified—all in the interests, of course, of auto workers' unity.

Weinstein deplores, "Had the GM workers on both sides of the border struck together...."

But that is just what Bieber's "give-aways" did not allow to happen.

The Canadian workers want unity to fight the auto bosses, but they want to run their own show in collaboration with U.S. auto workers. Among other things, this means control of their own strike funds.

The question of democratic rights of Canadian unionists caught up in the bureaucratically controlled machinery of the so-called "internationals" is a highly explosive one. More and more Canadian unionists are establishing their autonomous rights in opposition to the U.S. bureaucrats and hence outside of the "internationals."

from the —
MARCH 1985



Robert White is by no means a militant, nor is he a maverick. His stance at the Dec. 10 showdown had the almost unanimous support of the broadly based Canadian Council.

Some persons who should know better have dismissed this struggle for union democracy, for Canadian autonomy, with the label they use pejoratively as "Canadian nationalism."

Ross Dowson,
Toronto

A response

It seems to me that Ross Dowson has misunderstood the general thrust of my story on the split in the UAW. There is nothing there that contradicts the conception of local autonomy for the Canadian section of the UAW *within the framework of an effective, fighting union structure encompassing all auto workers.*

Autonomy that prevents joint action against the boss or which isolates a more combative wing from the main body of the union is a step in the wrong direction.

Dowson clearly seems to be arguing for *Canadian* autonomy, which is another matter. His conception of autonomy seems to go further

than the usual meaning of the term.

It is a long-standing principle, in the best traditions of the workers' movement, to permit local autonomy on local matters. This is indispensable to workers' democracy and to the development of a self-acting local leadership.

Working-class internationalism is no less a principle. It is wrong, because it is self-defeating, to permit national boundaries to obstruct working-class unity.

This is not at all intended to imply that Canadian UAW members—or any other local affiliate of the international union—must, in principle, accept bureaucratic treatment at the hands of the top officialdom.

The right to resist bureaucratic violations of workers' democracy includes the right to separate if necessary. But Dowson seems to be arguing that separation for *Canadian* workers is a *principle*.

Even if the issue were indeed that of "Canadian nationalism," the relevant principle is *the right* to separate—not separation itself.

Other than the difference of opinion cited above, Dowson and I seem to have a common view of the debilitating effects of the class-collaborationist, sell-out policies of union bureaucracies exemplified by the Bieber misleadership of the UAW.—

NAT WEINSTEIN

We're opening Camp Poundmaker
on May 19 and 20th weekend
—on the Salmon River near
Napanee--contact Dowson
961-4554

**Socialist
ACTION**

3435 Army St., Rm. 308, San Francisco, CA 94110

*RD's notes for Ontario NDP Left Caucus conference (ref. flyer LC News 1985)
(surnames deleted from original)*

The Saturday panels are key to the success of the Left Caucus. They must be used to bring everyone with any talent and commitment up front – from out of the closet.

Panels don't put too much, undue stress on people – they can come out strong or slip back – give us a multi appeal – and present many new faces and let the old ones, that want to – to consolidate – the Caucus can only be built by getting commitment, can't go anywhere on basis of anonymity. It is incomprehensible if the panels don't have all steering committee members on one or another – it's called "Steering Cttee."

Chris, Wayne, Dave, Lois, Harry K., Angie, Mary etc.; they should also be open for outside Toronto key people to appear up front – certainly like Marv G., Anne D., Fred G., Roger H. (St. Kitts), Carl C. (Hamilton), Harry P., Neil F. (Hamilton) & Ron B. of St. Kitts, John B. and some of the London Ont., Peterboro & others who came to (the) Hamilton Convention (and) expressed interest but weren't followed up on.

If we use the Saturday to open up the situation, convince people that they can pass resolutions in their ridings, stand as delegates, we can shake up the convention and win there – with the aid of the BC leadership's resolution [phone for this, Brian E. (Wayne)] – What about Jack Layton?

John B. will speak – he is convinced (Carl) C. will, Marv G. will speak – so will Harry P.

(other fragments of notes in file)

Minutes of Meeting of the Forward Group - April 9, 1985

Chair- Kasher , secretary-Dowson

Attendance, Dave T , Kasher, Ross D, John D., Angie C., John B., Gordon D.
and Harry K

Minutes of March 26 adopted as read

Membership & contacts- Kimberley W was in town over the weekend. She and Gary R visited Gord and Roz. Gord reported that there is still no left caucus operation in Winnipeg but Kimberely is moving around the left such as it is

Kasher reported that he sent a letter to Now protesting the Kirzener article on the Heap-Rosenblum debate on NATO policy which they have published. Harry reproted on his correspondence with Carol Ol in Vancouver who wants a copy of the Dowson V RCMP tape

SRDF - Kopyto reported that judge Allen will let us know on Friday whether he is prepared to let us lay charges against RCMPer Chisholm. Our Small Claims suit is still snowed under by the back-log of cases.

Education 1--- continuation of the previous discussion on the Zundel suit
Ontario Elections- Gord reported that he decisively won the York Mills nomination as NDP candidate and that the campaign is underway. Confronted by Lewis and Brigden as to his handling the Catholic school funding issue. The Committee room is now established at the Workmen's Circle building with Joe Meslin prepared to devote considerable time to its operation. A core of people are swinging behind the campaign and the first general leaflet will be off by the end of this week. The general statement as to the war threat and public funding read to the meeting. Gord has received a good response to his campaign from OSSTF who are going to give it strong support. It was generally agreed that we would not at this time direct any of our ofrces away from their local campaign into the Doctorow campaign. It is anticipated the the York Mills effort will result in firm recruitment to the party. Doctorow will be debating Betty Stevenson former minster of education and now deputy premier

Left Caucus--Kasher circulated copies of the petition that we can circulate to strenghten opposition to any change of the NDP's position on NATO. It was agreed to leave over discussion of the Left Caucus conference to the next branch meeting

Next meeting- April 23 at 8:30

(secretary)

Chairperson - Kasher

Attendance- Dowson, Kasher, Doctorow, Bacher, Harry K, Angie Codina, David T
absent without known reason- Darling.

Minutes- not available due to secretary's oversight

Correspondence-- Glen forwarded copy of an article he submitted to the
Brantford daily paper re Catholic upper school funding which was repro-
duced- Xerox copy available to everyone at meeting along with an Xerox
of a vicious attack on Dave that appeared in the Sun

NDP- Report by Gord on the York Mills campaign- almost doubled the NDP
vote of last election. The membership responded to the campaign with enthus-
iasm-with first hesitations to opposing the official party line on
public funding of Catholic high schools rapidly overcome by the excellent
response from many party members who had fallen into passivity. At the city-
wide social affair at the Palais Royal, Gord's birthday, where the OSSTF
van put in an appearance, was celebrated as a major feature. The leadership
has pulled back from taking any action and other candidates have identified
themselves with the Doctorow campaign which had the full support of OSSTF.
who turned over their van for the final full Saturday use in the riding. The
subsequent election results affirmed the widespread opposition and unease
on public funding - considered by the Tory leader to be a critical factor
in his party's defeat, and which he has said his government will reconsider
whether to implement it or not. The riding came out of the campaign with a
considerable addition to its treasury and a heightened political level and
increased enthusiasm. Three new people have come onto the executive and half
a dozen persons have been recruited. Six to seven hundred mail backs have
been received. Aside from publicity that the York Mills campaign received
in the Toronto proper press, TV and radio several local papers gave good
coverage. Gord will be a delegate to the Ont provincial council

Comments on the Ont election as a whole. Vote proved that the electorate
continues to break from traditional mold--in the federal election from the
Liberals, in this provincial election from the Tories. Chief difference was
that the shift from the Tories was not anticipated as was the failure of
the NDP to capitalize on this shift which went to the Liberals. The NDP
campaign was low keyed and marked a further adaptation to the right, leaving
the Liberals full field as the opposition and alternative to the Tories.
In the last couple of weeks of the campaign the NDP dropped all claim to
be the elected government seeking only to be official opposition- missing.
this also, despite a slick and costly campaign. It was pointed out that on
a riding basis, in those ridings where the NDP was conceived as a viable
alternative to the Tories, there was a very substantial increase in the NDP
vote. While the results proved that the NDP was stalemated, the NDP brass
attempted to ignore the Liberals as if they were washed out. The Ontario
Liberal gains will be used to some effect to revive the Liberals nationally.
The CP pulled back from identifying itself with NDP and while concentrating
on a few riding made no gains over its traditional 2-300 votes

General exchange of comments on post election problems. General agreement
that we reject NDP leaderships who will bid for our support-line.

An election is on the way ^{with the need to emphasize} the contrary position of giving the distinct
character of the party high emphasis. The electorate swept the Tories out of
office and every emphasis that the process should be completed by the elec-
tion of an NDP government. While there appears to be no support for another
immediate election that can only be the aim of the Liberals to carry for-
ward the sweep before the Tories catch their breath and are still stuck with
Miller. We should advocate the NDP leaderships position of favoring a working
minority government is absurd, that we should give no support whatsoever to
NDP support of a Tory government and no coalition deal with the Liberals
We are in reality in a pre-election period and should so act.

Forward--May 7, 1985--page 2

The NDP is in a real leadership crisis with the parliamentary caucus affirming its commitment to funding of Catholic high schools despite the widespread discontent on this question. Where possible, we should move out on this question - particularly in the light of MTAC motion to open up discussion even before the election--which was ignored. There was a preliminary exchange of opinion on the question of discipline in the NDP and the meaning of accountability . which has been interpreted to mean something more than-to report back and acting responsibly. This has been raised by a Left Caucus supporter with respect to Gord violating official party position on separate school funding which he ~~clearly~~ clearly posed when seeking the nomination and is his union's position, and the party leadership repudiates party policy. It was felt that in general we are opposed to disciplinary actions in the broad mass labor formation open to ~~any~~ the influence of all unionists regardless of their political affiliation, against either the right or the left.

Motion that we continue this meeting just one week away from tonight .

~~to take up among other matters the Left Caucus & the coming federal NDP conference~~

June 28th
Motion to adjourn passed

Kasher elected to chair the meeting

Attendance- Dowson, Kasher, Kopyto, Doctorow, Tomczac, Bacher -

Angie absent without known reason

Clarification of last minutes-re the MTAC motion to open up discussion on funding of Catholic high schools. We now learn that the provincial executive was not informed of that action as the temporary secretary who has left the party did not inform them. Dave will see that this is rectified. Minutes approved with this clarification - May 7/85

Timing of meetings- It was thought impracticable to call meetings later than 8:30 and that they will have to proceed at that time even if ~~the~~ occasionally one of two persons can't get there at that time. Agreed to commence meetings at 8:30 *regardless*

NDP-- MTAC meeting adjourned without a quorum. Foster is considering contesting ~~and then~~ position North York

Re-Catholic HS funding- Doctorow reported that he called a meeting of ~~disside~~ defeated NDP candidates. Five key people attended and out of the discussion two statements were drawn up for circulation. One calls upon the Provincial executive to hold an emergency council meeting prior to the provincial parliamentary caucus committing itself to support of any ~~ab~~ motion that would impede funding of Catholic high schools so that there can be a wide open debate and vote on this matter. The motion also urges that the party advocate a moratorium position along the lines of OSSTF

A second statement is in the form of an open letter to the provincial council that can be circulated to obtain signatures of support. This letter calls upon the party to adopt the position of a moratorium pending a ruling on the constitutional legality of tri-party proposal to fund Catholic high schools and to open up a thorough discussion in the party culminating in a party resolution for the next convention. Gord reported ~~that~~ meeting was buoyant and that the open letter is already receiving a good response although neither Lyons or Heap would sign it. OSSTF has released an open letter to the party leaders calling for a freeze and are considering the calling of a press conference.

The York Mills mail-back card- poll on funding of RC high schools and private schools is in the process of being pulled together and the information will be released within a week or so.

There is a meeting being called of all candidates and NDP election campaign officials to discuss and evaluate the election campaign.

Dave reported that the last St A & P meeting discussed recent developments re ONDP leader Ray's maneuvers with the Liberals and Tories and the matter of minority government. The meeting took the position that the NDP parliamentary caucus should make no deal with either party but should adopt a strategy to defeat the Tories - ~~and~~ no coalition or deal with the Liberals and should promote party principles. From information at hand it appears that MLAs Johnson and McClelland are actually favoring an NDP coalition with the Liberals--with NDPers seeking posts in a Liberal cabinet. Motion that our comrades on the Left Caucus Steering committee immediately press for meeting ~~so~~ so that the Left Caucus membership meeting can be called for it to discuss and adopt a position that can be circulated through the party. While information on Ray's so-called efforts to make minority government work is vague they appear to have grave implications as to the independent character of the party and its aim to establish an NDP government.

Federal convention-- Motion that our comrades make an effort to be delegates to the federal convention. While it would appear that the NDP leadership has pulled back in its efforts to dump the party's anti-NATO position primarily due to the mounting opposition to Star Wars it is not excluded that they may still attempt to modify official policy. The Left Caucus needs to make national connections. There will be a debate of some kind that may afford us an opportunity to oppose any Canadian expenditures

May 15, 1985 page 2

related to Canadian association with NATO. From a report of a task force chaired by Nystrom and Langdon there is a suggestion that the leadership may be promoting some kind of cooperative and community development corporations as a substitute to public ownership. We do not know what resolutions will be going in as most Ontario ridings have had no meetings due to the provincial election campaign. Rosedale meets tomorrow nite.

SRDF Small Claims Court suit slated for October 8 and 9. Judge Allen will hand down his finding as to our proceeding with the Criminal suite RCMP Per Chisholm by May 21

Motion to adjourn--next meeting May 28 at 8:15

Minutes of Forward Group- Toronto May 28, 1985

Kopyto elected to chair-- Secretary Dowson reported that he had neglected to bring last meeting's minutes. Tabled to the next meeting.

NDP- report by Gord of Saturday meeting called by Ontario leadership to evaluate election results --in the process made some comments on the negotiations that the parliamentary caucus is involved in with the Liberals and Tories. Meeting attended by Gord and other defeated candidates, including those he is working with in opposition to funding of Catholic schools. They distributed their two documents before the actual opening of the meeting. Ray lead off by indulging in some self criticism in order to defuse opposition. He had advised not attacking the Liberals, hadn't projected NDP aiming to be elected into office with majority. He sketchily outlined a concept that we are now faced with permanent minority governments, perpetual power sharing. He touched on the question of funding Catholic high schools. One of the participants raised Doctorow's not carrying official policy. Ray cooled this by commenting that all the candidates were excellent and conducted themselves well. He noted that he was not conceived by the party as a leader in the sense that Peterson and others were conceived by their forces. He touched on the options now confronting the party- a coalition of sorts with the Liberals, a full coalition with reps in the cabinet. Uppermost in caucus mind is that they cannot go into an election in the next period and have to make a minority government work or they would be seen as a destabilizing factor. Harry and Angie supplemented this report with one on May 26 meeting of Parkdale executive meeting attended by 25 persons. Gilbert carried the Ray line which was vigorously disputed by several in attendance notably Dave Thornley who attacked the leaderships policy as a disaster with the leadership of the party acting as pallbearers at the party's own funeral. There was (contrary to previous efforts on our part to discuss Catholic school funding) now great concern about this and a decision was made to open up a real discussion in the next meeting.

Discussion contributions by Bacher who scored the leaderships strategy as not being based on politics but its approach is technocratic. Bowson comment that the Catholic school funding is important but has been super-beded by the concept of making the minority government work and the preliminary information of the leaderships relations with the Liberals which suggest they already seem themselves, cabinet representation or not, as in a de facto coalition with the Liberals which imperils the very existence of the party as a labor party seeking to form a workers government. Dave expressed the opinion that the antics of the Ray leadership reveals their bankruptcy, that they have abandoned the concept of the NDP taking power- it amounts to an historic abandonment of the party's long standing effort to build a labor party that can take power.

Motion by Kopyto that we press for an immediate meeting of the Left Caucus steering Committee, that we call for a wide open discussion on the crisis that confronts the party and prepare the Left Caucus to give leadership passed.

Motion to postpone discussion on Federal convention, that we should give consideration to raising the matter of school funding as an Ontario-wide issue in the coming municipal elections

SRDF Harry reported on setback from Judge Allen's ruling against our effort to lay charges against Chisholm and his whimsical suggestion that we move against others. Harry reported that we will take his advice and proceed to lay charges against Jaworski

Report by Kopyto on the inspired response of the Law union conference to his challenge that they commit themselves to the struggle for socialism with his reference to the struggles in Poland, South Africa and Nicaragua.

Motion to adjourn.

Next meeting June 11- shortly after reactions to our efforts to thrust the Left Caucus into the struggle against the liquidationism of the Ont leadership which should be a central matter of discussion.

Whereas in the light of the massive immigration into Canada since

~~world~~ ^{world} war II of a considerable number of peoples, of different religions,

languages and cultures- some of whom even constitute formal majorities

in some areas in the country

and whereas heretofore what with the forcible ghettoization of

the population that is native to ~~this country~~ to Canada, this country has

(formally) been conceived as being composed of two basic cultures - one Catholic

(largely concentrated in ~~the province of Quebec~~ Quebec) (scattered more generally
and Francophone the other Protestant and Anglophone ~~throughout the country~~)

across the country whose special rights
have to varied degree been codified in many ways.

Be it resolved that our party move to ~~emphasize~~ in a more consistent way

the need to recognize the religious and cultural rights of these

considerable numbers of new Canadians by emphasizing the concept of the

separation of church from state.

the destruction of the public school system while under the jurisdiction of the
legislation provinces
threatening the undermining of
the public school system in the case of the funding of Catholic high schools /
of the publicly elected school boards in Ontario and the usurpation
the Soc Credit Govt are obvious matters of ~~our~~ our federal parties concern
Legislation that has been characterized by the Ontario Second School Teachers
Association ~~and~~ the funding of Catholic high schools
appeal to the convention arrangements etc to allocate time

2 sheets Drafts for Rosedale Submission
— only 6 minutes to the question
[projected]

Whereas legislation in Ontario with regard to
funding with public funds of ~~the~~ Catholic High Schools
as assessed by OSSTF as ~~creating~~ the very existence of
~~the~~ public education ^{on the that province} and whereas ~~in Ontario~~
political appointees of the BC Social Credit govt are now
usurping the publicly elected school boards in that province
Therefore be it resolved that Rosedale appeal to the
coming federal convention arrangements Cttee to allocate
them there to launch a discussion throughout our party
to defend the public education ^{system} that is now under attack on
a cross country scale

We appeal to the provincial executive to hold an emergency
meeting where consideration can be given to a reconsideration of
our past policy of public funding of Catholic high schools
and for the party caucus to cease from seeking
cease attempts

recognize the will of the Ont electorate and the long
suffocating tenure in office of the Ont Progressive Conservative
machine

We oppose any kind of
support to the
and we reject a
+ all kind of
Catholicism in life

Ballot---1 (found in May 1985)

“Dowson draft of election report to York Mills (NDP)”

What impact did the issue of public funding of RC high schools have on the recent Ontario provincial election results? There has been much speculation including former Premier Miller’s post-election comment that it was a critical factor in his governments defeat – but to our knowledge despite the many polls on (this and) other questions there is only one piece of substantive information on this matter.

The election committee of the York Mills NDP in support of the candidature of Gordon Doctorow decided to publish along with other relevant campaign literature a special brochure expressing the party’s general views on education. It highlighted the York Mills membership’s opposition to extension of public funding of Roman Catholic schools to grades 11, 12 and 13 and its opposition to public funding of private and independent schools.

In the opening days of the campaign this question was assumed to be a non-issue, particularly in view of the fact that the parliamentary leaderships of all three represented parties had come to a common agreement that they favored it and would enact it immediately following the elections. They have remained frozen to that position although due to popular concern this question commenced to come to the fore in the latter days of the campaign and remains up front around the demand for a moratorium – as the new government prepares to legislate the first phase of public funding of Catholic schools with all its ramifications.

Doctorow won an overwhelming endorsement from the York Mills nomination meeting when, as a socialist and a teacher-member of the Ontario Secondary Teachers Federation, which firmly opposes public funding of RC high schools, after reporting on the failure of his efforts to win a review of the 14-year-old party policy, he declared that he would campaign against further extension of public funding of RC high schools.

This leaflet contained a detachable panel that voters were asked to use to express their views as to whether they opposed or favored provincial government funding of RC schools, and whether they supported public funding of private and independent schools. Space was allocated for any additional comments and for a return address should the recipient wish further information. This leaflet was delivered by postal workers who distribute mail to every one of some 30,000 domiciles in the riding. Return postage was guaranteed for the mail-back panel to the NDP York Mills election committee.

As of May 23 some 426 cards have been returned to the committee, each card representing a poll of York Mills residents and in some cases the views of 2, 3 or more resident-voters in this Toronto riding. By this means the York Mills NDP attempted to hold, as much as the means at its disposal would permit, a

popular plebiscite on the question which as the campaign unfolded increasingly became a matter of public concern

Of the 426 cards returned 360 expressed opposition to both extension of public funding to RC schools and the public financing of private and independent schools — as against 40 that favored both.

Another 24 favored extending of public funding of Roman Catholic schools and one opposed. While 18 of their number opposed funding of private schools four favored it and two were undecided. Five cards were returned with written comments but with no markings on the ballot portion.

While the NDP's Ontario-wide vote remained more or less static, the York-Mills Doctorow campaign rolled up 6,925 votes as against the 3,858 polled in 1981. The Tory candidate, former minister of education and now Provincial Treasurer Betty Stephenson saw her vote drop from 20,613 to 18,010, while the Liberals polled 10,110 – almost double their 1981 vote.

The shift away from the Progressive Conservatives who had held office for — years was a province-wide phenomenon. Why the Liberals, who only months ago on the federal arena had suffered a catastrophe at the hands of the Conservatives, were the only substantial gainers in this very volatile Ontario situation, and not our party which was able to carry a highly visible campaign, must be the subject of intense examination by our members. I would suggest that our party strategy of continuing to occupy the middle ground minimized our fundamental working class character and socialist objective, ignored the Liberal party as if it were spent force, set as our aim not the election of an NDP government or clear advances in that direction, but to become the official opposition to a re-elected Tory government. The final weeks saw us even toning down this enthusiastic advocacy of minority government – a strange hybrid of an extended duration in which our party, and with Liberals and Tories, could (“)effectively work together in the interests of all Ontarians.”)

York Mills (Toronto), according to 1981 Census Canada has a largely middle class population and a highly skilled working class, with a scattering of Canada's corporate elite in residence. Average household income stands at \$41,895 as against the Ontario average of \$25,577. Some 20,035 dwellings are owner-occupied, 10,030 rented. Approximately 55% of the population has a university or other post-secondary education, and 42% are Protestant, 21.4% Jewish, 20% Catholic.

The raw figures in a report on the NDP York Mills mail-in ballot on public funding of RC high schools and private and independent schools give only a hint as to the interest, the concern, the wide areas of agreement and on the other hand the widely disparate views held by those persons in the riding who were so good as to return them.

A serious shortcoming is that each one was delivered to a household and answered by one person – although some informed us that others there were in agreement with his or

her replies — sometimes specifying the number. And what about those that were not returned. Do some of them see the whole electoral process so rife with promises but resulting in so little if any substantial change, as irrelevant, even a diversion or trap. We can only guess!

We decided to call each return a ballot. But most of them turned out to be much more than that. 98 of the 360 returns were formally treated as a ballot — marked with a check mark of some sort without any comment, although 21 of these volunteered a name and address for more information. Since the ballot was open to any and all comment as to be expected there was one marked “Get off to Russia, USSR” with a swastika scrawled on it. Another took pleasure at costing us 32 cents for return delivery with the comment: “Another 32 cents down the drain.”

But these were notable only as exceptions. Nearly all the rest carried serious and thoughtful opinions on the issues involved. Ex-Premier Davis’ arrogant reversal from opposition to government funding to its imposition without even consultation with his cabinet, and the agreement of the two parliamentary opposition caucuses without public debate were vigorously and roundly condemned on ballot after ballot. Bishop Garnsworthy’s words of condemnation were as nothing compared to the wording on some ballots.

The ban on all debate has been justified in the name of not fanning the flames of religious bigotry. But the fostering of bigotry is the term appearing on ballot after ballot to describe the process that would separate Catholic students of 11, 12 and 13 grades along religious lines from their peers. The poll quite the contrary to official fears is remarkably free of expressions of arguments that could be called narrow minded, prejudiced or bigoted.

As one ballot put it: “The public school system is for every child of every race and religion — need more be said.”

It could appear according to a block of forwarded ballots that there is confusion in York Mills as to what the NDP position is — one (of) extension of public funding to RC separate school grades 11, 12, and 13. And it is not so much that people don’t know that the official position is — that voiced by Bob Rae and the parliamentary caucus — is support of extending public funding. We would gather that the official position is as seen in part of the public mind as to be so completely opposite to what they would expect it to be that they see York Mills’ NDP opposition to public funding as the real NDP position and want to identify with it. Along with many expressions of solidarity and congratulations there are such greetings as: “We are in agreement with the NDP on this point — totally” — another: “I am voting for the NDP for the first time in my life solely on this issue. Your stance is to be commended. Good luck. Is Bob Rae with you on this?” — another: “I wish you were running as a Liberal, not a socialist NDP,” another: “I dislike unions and have never considered voting NDP, but PCs equal PCBs and the Liberal candidate is a loony. I’ll have to vote for you;” — another: “Until now I didn’t

know for sure who I would vote for if I would vote at all. Congratulations on being the only one brave enough

to speak on this issue. Now my vote will be for Gordon Doctorow — signed Anglican;” — another: “It is a pity your whole party couldn’t follow this line too;”— and another: “I applaud your stand with respect to the above, but find it reprehensible that Bob Rae has not seen fit to make it Party policy. In my view he has lost a chance for a good deal of support and missed what might have been a crucial election issue.”

*

As one ballot was marked: “Questionnaire is an excellent idea.” And we have only scratched the surface.

= 30 =

* Insert: (further notes by R.D.)

Ballots of persons who claimed always voted for NDP. But because of you... To be sure the funding question is a most important one – but its importance doesn’t by any means transcend the significance of the NDP as a political party – projecting the necessity of a labor government and the need to establish a socialist democracy in Canada and elsewhere.

Regardless of the party leadership’s erroneous position, we should all unite behind the party and speak out against anyone who jeopardizes its struggle to rout the Liberal and Tory mouthpieces of Canada’s corporate welfare bums. (First time in my years unable to vote NDP)

81-1985. F

(Dowson-Secretary)

Minutes of Forward Group June 11, 1985 Toronto -called to order 9:05 p.m.

Attendance- John D, Ross D, Gord D and Bob K. -- Bacher phoned in to report he would be late, Dave at MTAC meeting, Angie: *Came late*

Minutes of May 15th read and adopted. Minutes of May 28 read and adopted as corrected

Membership and contacts-We have turned up several persons who appear to be good contacts from the candidates opposed to ~~xxxxxxx~~ RC high school funding

Motion that we hold a class suitable to bring these contacts closer to the Forward Group. Motion that we contact Sabiaa as to the use of her home which is readily accessible by subway and has a large back yard. Ross agreed to contact her. Suggested topic for the class-- Where is the NDP going--we have the Ontario accord experience, Catholic school funding and shortly we will have the federal ~~convention~~ experience. Speaker-- Bob K nominated and agreed

Educational-- Ross gave it on the rise of the black working class struggle in South Africa

The Left Caucus--Steering committee meeting attended only by Forward comrades and George E. There was agreement that we go ahead with the statement that Harry K drifted on the Parliamentary Caucus NDP Accord with the Liberals. It will be worked over for ~~xxxxxxx~~ circulation at the Provincial Council meeting June 15-16 at City Hall. An attempt will be made to build up support for Doctorow's stand on RC funding which will be coming under attack. Steering Committee discussed the federal convention and Left Caucus participation. General opinion is that it will be low keyed what with the leadership's backing off on revising the party's opposition to NATO/NORAD. Ehring thinks we should move in the direction of what he calls a counter convention--meaning generally that we will do what we can to make contact outside the agenda of the convention which it is anticipated will be routine with featured speakers on generalities. It was agreed that we press Left Caucus to make preliminary contact with the Saskatchewan Left.

~~Svend Robinson's interest in working with us. He felt that federal caucus had no alternative but to support the Liberals to ditch the Tories which the electorate clearly wished to do.~~ Extend anti-war committee contact. Dowson reported that the Alberta paper reports the setting up there of an anti-war committee. Harry reported that Svend Robinson interested in working with us. He ~~felt that federal caucus had no alternative but to support the Liberals to ditch the Tories which the electorate clearly wished to do.~~ Ross emphasized that the accord with the Liberals is in itself ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ tolerable except for the two year non-election clause which will in all probability be broken by the Liberals at their convenience. The most significant aspect of the accord was Ray seeking, after it had been worked out, a couple of seats on the Liberal cabinet, revealing that he's moving towards a coalition sell-out. Fortunately the Liberals brushed it aside

Preserve Public Education Caucus meeting reported on by Gord-- Very promising development. The Anglican church and others are organizing forces for a campaign and effective in-put in the promised public discussion. OSS1 preparing a campaign. Rising interest in the demand for a moratorium and interest in a referendum vote in the coming municipal election

Parkdale NDP holding a debate on RC funding June 24 at Queen Victoria Public School 7:30 p.m. We should help build it up, Gord D an invited speaker

Anti-war Ross Reported that he participated in the TDN demo at the Royal York June 12 at 11:30 to protest a US general's address urging Canada involvement in Star. About 40-persons participated. Dowson helped pull it together-poorly organized. TDN holding a mini-conference Sunday 23rd, Next branch meeting Tuesday 25th. LC Steering Committee June 18.

Motion to adjourn -passed

ONDP Left Caucus
Steering Ctee

notes
Taken by Russ

Steering Committee meeting--June 18, 1985 B of F.
present Kasher, Tomczac--drop in Ross Dowson. Bacher in town may make it later

Agreement to hold a public meeting in a good location early this fall or late summer on the two NDP conventions which will give us an opportunity to deal with ~~Ontario~~ Accord with Liberals and Catholic school funding--Where is the NDP going - and report on the provincial council meeting

agreed to put the LC mailing list on computer and try to build it up
Agreed to try to reconstitute the working committee of the Left Caucus no known reason for absent eis but thought demoralization creeping in --it would be good if we could have a frank discussion with types on the old steering committee which appears caput--played a bad role at the provincial council meeting--particularly Simon Roseblum who introduced Bob Rae addresses on the two main issue--far to the right of the broad feelings of the delegates. Agreed to make a special efforts collectively to convince types like Bisson, Feltes (St Kits) Netzo ? Parkdale, Dave Thornley, Danny McNamara, Sutherland etc. Start working on this right away. see if we could hold a meeting in Mid July

Federal Convention Proposed that we hold two public meetings in the name of the Left Caucus. One on Foreign affairs encompassing NATO-NORAD a victory which needs to be firmed up--~~xxxxxxx~~ in everyone's minds preparatory for the next assault by the Broadbent leadership--Nicaragua, a popular social revolution ~~xxxxx~~ threatened by US imperialism all the more that it promises a revival of the socialist democratic tradition. We move as soon as possible to see as the availability of ~~xxxxxxx~~, Dan Heap, Doctorow and Bob Kasher and the suitability of holding this forum and another on Saturday or Sunday at noon. Immediately consult with Anne and Marv in Ottawa. Other forum suggested on the Steve Landon-headed task force document on the Canadian economy and jobs. We put forward Dave and consider approaching Watkins to participate

Agreed to run off several hundred copies of the Left Caucus Manifesto (federal) and the Ontario manifesto along with the statement prepared for the provincial council on the NDP-Liberal Accord

There was talk about joint sponsorship of a forum with the women's Committee

Minutes of Forward Group , July 10, 1985, Toronto

(Dowson secretary)

Meeting called to order

Attendance--Harry, Angie, Gord, Ross, Dave, Bob K, John Bacher-absent Earling
Bacher struck off as chairperson

Minutes of June 11 meeting read- adopted as corrected. Dowson's notes on Steer
Committee read. Motion that we dispense with the regular agenda in favor of a
full report on the Federal NDP convention in Ottawa and discussion on re-
port prepared by Dave. It was agreed to leave the Gandall correspondence
and proposals aside for a continuation of the discussion at next meeting
The secretary took copious notes on Dave's report and on the contributions
on various aspects of it over the lengthy meeting. On going over them he
concluded that it was not practical to attempt to record them as in any
real way being a report of the meeting. He proposes that we revert to our
usual practice of recording motions.

Motion by Angie that we consider holding regular weekly meetings on a
tighter schedule -tabled until next branch meeting.

Report by Dave that Gandall is coming into Toronto July 27 and he proposed
that several of us arrange to meet with him. Agreed.

Motion by Gord that next branch meeting be a structured discussion around
Marv's proposals so that we can come to a common understanding and take them to
the steering committee to get acting on them. Agreed

Motion that the next meeting be held on Tuesday July 16-passed

Report on Parkdale NDP debate -discussion between Doctorow, Manfred Netzl and
Alderman Gilbert of public funding of Catholic high schools.

Doctorow circulate material on York Mills dispute with provincial council
re Doctorow campaign. Dowson made available International Viewpoints and
recent issues of the U.S. Bulletin in Defence of Marxism.

Motion to adjourn

-30-

provisionally scheduled class on July 14 at S. biaa's did not come off.

Dave 8:38

Attendance-- Dave, Gord, Ross, Bob--abent--John D, Harry K, Angie G; without known reason--- John B cant make it

Membership- Letter by Tom Baker on his leaving the RWL- agreed that Gord who knows him well from Guelph YS will approach him with a view to recruiting him to Forward Group. Letter appeared in the FIT(U.S.) bulletin. Report by Ross on Guy

Contacts- Motion that we hold a social weekend at Camp Poundmaker over Saturday August 3-4-5 weekend with an educational on the Saturday nite. Ross volunteered to send out notices

Educational- Follow up discussion on last weeks educational on the NDP federal convention and the role of the left caucus. given by Dave. ~~Tom Baker~~ *Tom Baker* The developing role of the left caucus by Ross. centered around the Gandall proposals. Motion that we endorse the major propositions by Marv. It was agreed that the newsletter(suggested name NDP Update) is just what we need. That it should appear five or 6 times a year -that subscribers be sought for it on a cost-recovery basis and that sustaining contributions be sought--that the press run be large for broad, give-away circulation- that it be published under the authority of the LC Steering committee, that rather than being open to the publication of anything submitted, like the former Agenda, that the steering committee strike off an editorial board to supervise it. There was general agreement that this was just the type of publication that is needed at this time., very flexible, individual subscribers could run off extra copies for their purposes, very interventionist, it is possible that on occasion it could be put out without costs to the LC by using others' facilities. Dave reported that the steering committee would be meeting next week where Bob would make a report that could be adopted. It would also be proposed that the Caucus hold a forum of a widely public character on the matter of public school funding in September --- the new committee in defence of public education could supply speakers. This would be the public activity in connection with a province-wide conference of the Left Caucus. We also intend to propose a series of forums for the fall with such topics as Nicaragua under US imperialist attack, free trade, star wars, the Ray accord with the Liberals --issues that the riding associations should be discussing but dont and could attract a city-wide audience

Next branch education--the Liberal-NDP parliamentary accord.---

Report by Gord on campaign in defence of public education. We are still pushing the idea of a referendum on public funding of Catholic high schools

Report on anti-war committee- an issue of the Newsletter is in process.

A barb-Q social affair is being held at Roz and Gord August 10

Discussion on new electoral challenge to NDP in the municipal arena- the ridings will now have to run a full slate- MTAC is having a meeting on Wednesday

Next branch meeting Tuesday July 30th at 8:30

(NB- Last issue of Forward was #57 - Nov/Dec 1984)

85 at meeting at end

July 31, 78

Ward 6 meet NDP

about 35 people at beginning of meeting

1st item - report on cooperation

probably all got the RD signed leaflet Ellie was prepared to distribute last issue forward - we agreed not to

RD challenged chair to revise agenda - open up our nominations + select our candidates

Heaps-Spencer opposed my motion. Naomi made useful contribution

Motion defeated RD had thought Heap wanted to push this down our endorsement contingent on WBCO endorsement of our candidates

* RD spoke against the report on Cooperation - that it was liquidation - X lended contribution

Becker spoke against my contribution - bowing to my speaking about it + apologizing for her use of word integrate So all three Key left + dissociated themselves from my contribution

Ellie made a good contribution X playing importance + significance of NDP and this accommodation to a nothing formation

Election of treasurer tabled

Nominations

Becker nominated Heap

63 votes cast - 33 votes needed 48 Heap 15 spoiled 50 Spencer 13 spoiled

Heap at this juncture made it known that he supported Sewell for Mayor - Sewell in audience

Accountability of endorsed candidates

* Ross spoke against endorsing - extended contribution X possible words NDP expects its endorsed candidates + them to "generally" support NDP policies attacked criteria - suggested had to represent labor and labor NDP aim of socialism - attacked CO elements who rejected NDP's philosophy as irrelevant - ~~some~~

Endorsee's spoke - Sparrow under question of Paul Jones said he would support socialist Diorton proclaimed self as socialist - we pushed them all to left attacked Diorton question on cutbacks to indirectly take up my decision not to question Spencer

but you left when you ought to get and state last meeting

Sewell projected assurances that the progressives would not only hold to what he had put could win a majority I couldn't vote for you Ellie + he came out strong - Spencer - Mark Goldblatt - on your side right

strikes me is the number of persons in the community movement
that have come to join NDP - why did they -?

~~Union to Union~~

Because the NDP as the political arm of the labor movement
transcends the community movement - doesn't do away with it
but reaches out farther - generalizes the experience
of all community movements with their particular problems
to encompass the problem of the class as a whole

NDP should be involved in community concerns - not too
deep in the most immediate & smallest concerns of the working
people - but there is a danger

Union - tool room - section of the party the union
the specific concerns cannot

Agenda

Cooperative yes - but with ^{an eye} toward 6
framework of its purposes
& principles

- not at this time

We are all in it

so want to be in it as

NDP

what we are doing
members have decided
get involved in
- foreboding -

Spencer

1st motion to set up NDP
might have got defeated - Coogan for

first RD in luvation ~~and~~ include treasurer

27
23

2nd stage

RD - 2nd intervention RD - amend - 2 NDP label
Candidates for B of E - amend next to amendment

1 or 2 - everyone pressing me to accept
amendment to amendment - Charlie Grube - I did
Heap should I accept - he said yes - I did
I asked chair to interpret it meant matter to be
postponed - ruled otherwise
mover of amendment said he made amendment
to favor one - still chair didn't rule out amend
motion carried - one B of E confusion
middleton didn't vote

3rd - amendment to prop 6 - eliminate investigate
possibilities to remove - one after vote to
establish one operation - I signed - we
finally defeated this amendment

But to COorg got all the steering & the parts by
default



929 5695

Minutes of the Forward Group August 9, 1985

Minutes of previous meeting read and adopted.

Attendance- Bacher absent- an USSR Youth fesitval, Kasher absent-in Vancouver present-John D, Harry K, Ross D, Angie G, Gord D --Dave late
Angie & Harry explained absence from previous meeting, erred as to night.

Chair--John D.

Membership and contacts- Report by Gord on Foster B- Excellent element with who we have had a wide experience. She has expressed serious interest in the Forward Group and is reading some of our material. Motion that Dave and Ross meet and discuss with her with view to recruitment-pass unan. Gord also reported on Diane Meagan who is rapidly developing our way, identifies with us as noted by her reactions to the meeting with Marv and Walker-Jones. Ross reported on correspondence with Abie Weisfeld who unfortunately is degenerating in an anarchist, ultra left direction. Report on Zane who is now getting medical attention. Ross reported on a Bill Clinton who has been in contact with the RWL and who volunteered some incisive observations. He appears to be in considerable agreement with us and to have possibilities of development

Social--report on Camp affair at Poundmaker over the holiday. Modest attendance Both Zane and Esther & daughter attended. Highlight was the extended Saturday discussion on Public funding of RC high schools and the NDP. The panel conducted by persons very much involved in this matter proved to be a great success.

Educational-- by Harry K- a report on the World Congress of the Fourth International. The documents for inexplicable reasons are not yet available however there have been several fragmentary articles in the ICP, International View-point which provided the basis of the educational

NDP---

Left Caucus-- Report on and discussion of meeting of available comrades with Mrv Gandall and Walker Jones at Gord's home. Generally agreed that there was a tense atmosphere engendered by Marv and Walker on the groundless supposition that there are differences between us of some kind. Insofar as they could be defined they appear to think that the caucus is going to attract dissident leftists from other areas of the radicalizaation who will come because of the particular--perhaps single issues--that concern them. They also appear to see the major area of Left Caucus activity to be the conventions and struggles there over policy giving little weight to the Caucus' independent activities such as forums through which it can hope to attract NDP party members who the ridings fail to attract. educate and activate on issues of the day such as Nicaragua, Star Wars and Public funding of Catholic high schools. They will be in for the September 13 Steering Committee meeting for which we must be well prepared to get the November 23 Conference underway in a big way.

Left Caucus mailing list being prepared to be put on computer. The mailing of the first issue of the Lft Caucus newsletter is underway. It will include also the covering appeal for donation and sub-a copy of the Anti-War Committees brief read by Payne before the federal government committee--and the Left Caucus Manifesto

NDP anti-war committee bar-B-Q at Gord and Roz's Saturday the 10th

Next meeting - Thursday- August 22

Ross Dowson, #2311
40 Homewood Ave
Toronto M4Y 2K2

August 12, 1985

Laura Cole ~~mfmkhw~~
Fourth Internationalist Tendency
Box 1947, New Yorky N?Y., 10009, U.S.A.

Dear Comrade Cole

Thanks for your note of July 17. Comrade Sell snet us the Handbook so that completes our order. I circulate your bulletin and am selling subs to the ~~Internationalist~~ viewpoint to comrades and contacts.

I am enclosing some material which will give you an idea what the Forward Group has got going. I think some of your comrades would be interested in seeing it- particularly George and Frank.

No 1 is the NDP Left Caucus Newsletter that we have just commenced putting out. You will get an idea of how we intend to use it in the immediate future from leaflet number 2. While it was overlooked in this communication we hope that interested party members will Xerox copies of the one they receive for wide circulation in the riding or constituency association of which they are a member. This could increase our press run quantitatively. The Forward Group plays the pivotal role in the Left Caucus --t so much so-but the Caucus has excellent possibilities and ourselves within it. Right now we are the only organized revolutionary tendency in the caucus. Last year some rightist elements and ultra leftists took after one another hammer and tong. Both right now are ineffectual. What is left of the RWL has been pretending an NDP orientation but since last years expulsions, which they appeared to seek ~~and~~ completely ~~gave up~~ the fight at the critical time, they are dormant. I see from their line now carried in a section of the SWP political resolution they now formally conclude that the NDP stands in the way of the radicalization-rejecting our dialectical concept that it is both in and on the way. The RWL has been committing suicide both by extremist concepts of centralization and implantations in the unions, which it so happens are the base of the NDP as a labor party.

I see the Fourth International World Congress recognized the RWL as the Cdn section and ~~the~~ both the Weisleder Group and Groupe Socialiste as sympathers. Joe Hansen read us out of the Lenin-Trotsky tendency some years back in the apparent belief that we compromised the SWP's struggle against Mandel with our orientation to the NDP along with our tendency to see the new Canadian nationalism, the anti-U.S. imperialism, of a dependency as progressive. We saw no purpose in setting up another tendency. *It was obvious at our last week's educational on the World Congress that the comrades feel burned with socialist greetings*

No. 3 is a brief that our comrades who organized the anti-war committee here in Ontario presented to a federal parliamentary committee ~~last~~ last month. As you can see the official position is good but it is

not taken off the order paper to the masses. Reagan's Star Wars project came just in time to aid us in defeating the NDP brass's attempt to clear itself of its anti-NATO position which it had been trying to do the last three conventions. It looks like NDP anti-war committees are spreading-with the brass being unable to do anything about it.

No. 4 is our effort to present an alternative overall policy ^{on} the 50th anniversary of the Founding of the CCF-NDP. It was of course rejected by the convention. We are circulating it again to the many new contacts we made at ~~this~~ this year's NDP federal convention. When the convention arrangements committee protested that its staff couldn't take on the task of distributing my report on our RCMP suit ^{added} and a couple of other left wingers seized the task of giving a copy to each and every delegate-No. 5

I hope this is of interest

comradely

Ross Dowson

I hope that the documents of the World Congress are soon published. Sometime I should write up my experience with Joe and the international and the long absence that they imposed on me from the Canadian section. which as it extended convince me that what was designed as a baptism of fire for the new Canadian comrades threatened disaster.

from Ross Dowson, #2311
40 Homewood Ave
Toronto, M4Y 2K2

August 12, 1985

Dear Abie:

I must apologize for the delay in answering your letter. It has been in my mind since I received it but continually pushed aside by innumerable other matters--almost none of them of ~~much~~ account when I see that it is now August 12

I suppose one of the factors in my procrastinations is my loss of what to say. I have felt over the past while that you have been losing contact with the real world--not in the absolute sense of course but in the sense of what is to be done about the situation that confronts us, what is useful to be done, what's to be done by persons like ourselves who see where the ~~xxxxxx~~ capitalist rulers of society and their agents are taking us but who also know ~~xxxxxx~~ not just about their power but the power of the only force that has the potential to check them and then defeat them and ~~make~~ *make* this time has to be awakened and mobilized. The process of attempting to awaken the working class and to mobilize them is one that you have been an active participant in now for some years and in general an effective participant in.

But I must tell you, even all the more as a friend and as a comrade and even though I am tremendously inhibited since you are actually in prison and I am only figuratively in the prison of a bourgeois democratic Canada that you are not effectively serving the ideas that you are so firmly committed to--that your latest action as I understand it is self defeating. It is necessary to put affection and sentimentality aside as I did when I read about the Litton activists. A great powerless, emptiness well-up in me--- ~~why~~ why, why wasn't ~~me~~ or someone else who had the privilege of knowing what the Old Man passed onto me able to have talked and discussed with them as to how to awaken the forces and mobilize the forces that alone through their mass actions can effectively act to resolve the dilemma confronting us --- and to stop them from ~~wasting~~ actually taking themselves out of the struggle and wasting their lives.

What you call "the Unicorn action" is incomprehensible to me. I do not understand your explanation that "it was necessary to continue on from the peace camp and not let it be destroyed." I think that the peace camp and how you parlayed it, all the more for your bad health, was even exemplary, SYMBOLICALLY, although it had no possibility of becoming other than an inspired moment in the biggest and most important massive movement--the developing anti-war movement in this country. But it seems to me that you who were most identified with this action have by the Unicorn action considerably undercut it. You were developing as a mass leader--all the anti-war activists could only have respect for you. But what about now! What are they to learn from the mutilation of a stone depicting a mythological yes a mythological animal that is usually recorded as a symbol of innocence and purity. The Litton action was a futile one, but at least it symbolized the arms manufacturers, and us to boot although such industries are not the cause of war

No one has emulated the Litton action and it is not at all because they haven't the guts to do so. Everyone, or nearly everyone instinctively understands that such actions are ineffectual. And as if to convince any who might have even had a contrarywise thought the plant was quickly restored and expanded to take on even more orders.

I don't think that it is the danger of being caught and the ~~possibility~~ ^{futility} of imprisonment that inhibits Litton type activists but the proven fact in our collective minds that such actions do not and cannot achieve their desired purpose. No serious criminologist, ~~but~~ only kooks and sadists believe that capital punishment in anyway stops murders. In their own way the working class understands only too well that mass class action is the only way to bring about change. They commenced to learn that from the days of the Luddite ~~movement~~. The problem is to convince them that such a unity can be achieved as will lead to mass action. They know that type of action is futile and they come to doubt all action but they have no alternative as South Africa shows.

Yes you dragged the NDP, the anti-war movement and even some Liberal M.P.'s behind the camp -- not when it seemed we most needed them but you achieved it nonetheless and you should not forget that good deed.

What next? ² the August 22 trial. I don't see how you can do other than plead guilty of damaging public property. They are going to stick you on that ~~whammy~~ even if you do not plead that way. All you can say that by such action you wished to bring public attention to the ~~criminal role~~ criminal role of the government for going along with the Crusade and now possibly Star Wars. It is obvious that the action which you took in all sincerity was a futile one, that there is no probability that others will go out and do likewise. It will be hard to make ~~an example~~ ^{out of an example} has to be made of you. If they ~~do otherwise~~ ^{attempt to do so} they appear to be foolish.

I must also say that I am disturbed by the perspective you mention with regards to Kebek but perhaps we can get together and discuss this-- I hope very shortly

comradely

Ross Dowson

Ross Dowson #2311
40 Homewood Ave.,
Toronto M4Y 2K2

August 13, 1985

Dick Prinsep
Vancouver

Langdon

Dear Dick;

I thought you might like to get a copy of the first issue of the Bulletin that the Ont NDP Left Caucus has put out and to consider continuing to get it if you think that it would be any help out there. Hilda Thomas came right in with us at the federal convention last month to help us take on the Broadbent leadership with such effect

This time once again as you know the brass having made known their desire to get rid of the party's anti-NATO position--pulled back. The priority committee thought they could just dump the score or more resolutions that ridings sent in to reaffirm the anti-NATO line but the ~~the~~ opposition of ~~xxx~~ delegates many of whom came from afar forced a debate on the floor and we skunked Broadbent and company. That opened up the convention tremendously. I launched the separation of the Left Caucus from Simon Roseblum at the first meeting of the Left Caucus which was attended by about 125 delegates and from there on in handled the caucus display--along with the Dowson V RCMP and Anti-War committee display. We were the only socialist or revolutionary tendency present. Some RWLers lounged around on the bleachers. It was obvious that the brass have disarmed themselves ideologically. Landon-Nystrom's resolution on jobs didn't even tip its hat to the public sector and job creation. When we took them on they tried to save face by claiming that this was understood. Hilda Thomas' referral backed up by three or four Forward Group ers along with Marv Dandall. They suffered two or three other defeats. Delegate response to a speech by a woman representing the Sandinistas reminded me of the response to the Cuban Revolution at the party's founding convention in Ottawa years back. What was noticeably missing was any known up-front Prairie and BC spokespersons supporting the Left Caucus. I don't know what Hilda thought of the ~~xxxx~~ situation as I had no opportunity to talk with her but there must be some signers of the Left Caucus contact sheets from out your way. We are awaiting the response from the Left Caucus Newsletter. There were some radical delegates from Quebec.

I wonder if Hilda did or is going to give a report on the convention at an early riding meeting this fall ~~out there~~.

We have mobilized a bloc of NDP activists in opposition to the Ontario leaderships support of public funding of Catholic schools --an issue that is going to embarrass them for sometime. I ran out of copies of the brief that Harry Payne presented to the touring parliamentary committee on Star Wars--but it was very effective. Jewett was forced to congratulate the committee which is Gord Doctrow's baby.

I am cutting out as I want to get a letter off to Ruth Bullock this afternoon --I will let you know as to her response, if any

fraternally

Ross

Ross Dowson

Ross Dowson, #2311
40 Homewood Ave
Toronto M4Y 2K2
August 14, 1985

Ruth Bullock
354 West 16th Street
North Vancouver, B.C.

Dear Ruth:

Dick Prinsep has dropped in on me a couple of times this year. He tells me each time that despite everything that has been happening over the past several years that you are still in there and that in fact you are involved in the NDP. Hearing that-I am thinking that you will be interested in hearing from us down-Easterners.

I do not know whether you have maintained contact with Hilda Thomas or whether she gave you a run-down on her experience at the NDP federal convention. She moved right in on the Ontario Left Caucus that I, Gord Doctorow, Harry Kopyto and others in the Forward Group have been nurturing along the last couple of years. Despite all the difficulties with ~~some~~ some ex RWLers who waged a dog fight with some right wingers who have been imperilling the Caucus we came out of the federal convention with flying colours. From our work at the last Ontario convention which found the RWL after having successfully passed some protest resolutions against some of their expulsions only to drop the whole matter on the day of the convention and now greater successes in Ottawa with the significant help of Hilda we have now built up sufficient contact to launch a simple Newsletter. I am enclosing a copy of the first issue which is devoted to the federal convention.

We have designed it so that anyone who wants to can xerox as many copies as they want for circulation. If it gets the response we hope it can take on a really impressive circulation. This Left Caucus and its bulletin is the most important activity we have been involved in for some while. Of course there have been other opportunities. The suite against the RCMP hasn't exhausted itself yet as you will see from the enclosed leaflet which I prepared as a report to the delegates at the Ottawa convention. It was well received. We are also much involved in the conflict over the Ontario Catholic hierarchy's effort to get public funding for their high schools. We started this project with Gord Doctorow's getting his NDP riding of York Mills to elect him as its candidate in the provincial election this Spring on the explicit understanding that we would challenge the deal that the NDP parliamentary faction made with both the Liberals and Tories that they would together jam this legislation through. Their dogged determination to adhere to this rotten agreement has caused considerable resentment in party circles and a committee numbering 7 of NDP candidates and key activists in York Mills calling themselves New Democrats to preserve Public Education presented a brief to the parliamentary committee that was struck off to release some steam. The New Democrats are attempting to stimulate the feeling for referendum to be held at the same time as the cross Ontario municipal elections. I doubt if this will come off. But this Catholic high school funding slated to commence this coming school year is not a one shot affair. It will have to come up next year and the following year if the Liberal-Tory and NDP parliamentary alliance is to achieve its aim.

In contrast to the flurry of things we as a tiny group happen to be involved right now the riding associations here as a whole are doing very little. It is that absence of a milieu to work in that has caused us to push for the Left Caucus ~~in the~~ with the aim of stimulating the broad support that the NDP has into a forum even if of modest proportions that draws ~~on~~ on cross riding support of the party.

With the recent flurry of developments for the first time in years it looks like we are on the verge of recruiting some people. Up until recently we have been gradually exhausting even the few numbers we have. Nothing has come out of the 60s-70s radicals including the LSA-RMG- RWL . I never meet anyone who is a member--only persons who were. The crisis in the US- with Socialist Action ~~and the~~ on the West Coast and Fourth International Tendency ~~I~~ gather largely in the East has stimulate da few people who had been sinkin into lethargy.

Barry Weisleder(ex-RMG-LSA) has pulled a few people together. They held a forum addressed last week by a young Winnipegger who had been to the FI World Congress and the youth camp held after. I went over to acquaint them with the ONDP Left Caucus Newsletter. Tom Baker chaired the meeting .He came over to me after to tell me that Larry Nozaki who I havent heard of for years had come across a copy of ~~the~~ ~~article~~ ~~that~~ Barry had probably got into the FIT bulletin and ~~if~~ ~~it~~ ~~is~~ ~~correct~~ that Larry had shown it to you. interestingly both the chairman and the speaker dissociated themselves from Barry's Socialist Workers Collective which is difficult to understand. But it seems that there is a little ferment in the old circles.

You probably know that Joan Newbigging died and there is a memorial meeting being held here for her this week . Sad to say it is probably there that I will hear more of what is going on and who has what possibilities. It is now clear that there is very little now in the RWL which has been long turned in on itself and now appears to be responding to its loss in morale with more extreme representation of its politics than ever. The latest political resolution of the SWP jumps the border to attack electoral politics such as practised by the NDP as being only in the way of the development of the class struggle here ~~in~~ and in the US----the very words that Art Young soprophetically used some ten to twelve years ago today

I hope this short note finds you well and in a mood to write me a reply

as always--with socialist greetings

Ross Dowson

Minutes of the Forward Group - August 22, 1985 (Dowson - sect 4) - change
Attendance - Gord, John D, John B, Angie C, Dave T, Bob K, Ross D, Harry K late
Chairperson-- John B

Minutes of previous meeting-August 9 adopted as read
Membership and contacts- Ross Reported that Esther B took the initiative of phoning him and inviting him up to her home for an informal discussion with him and Diane M who would also be there. A very worthwhile discussion of a wide ranging character which affirmed our favorable impressions of both of them ensued. Dave is arranging another meeting with Esther with Ross participating where it has been agreed that we approach her for membership in the Forward Group. Gord reported that he has been unable to arrange a meeting with Tom of Hamilton. He also reported that the ONDP provincial leadership are moving against Diane through her riding executive who are apparently going to censure her for ~~her~~ participation in the presenting of the brief of the New Democrats to Preserve Public Education to the parliamentary committee. She is going to circulate copies of the brief to the next meeting and see if it is possible to show a video of the presentation. Gord is keeping in touch with Clinton and will get him to join his riding ONDP Left Caucus. First returns from the mailing of the Left Caucus bulletin are coming in. It looks like the response is going to be very good. Almost \$300 has come in along with an excellent letter from Hilda Thomas of Vancouver and request for ten extra copies of the various items included in the mailing from an activist in Renfrew Ontario.

Dowson reported that College copy is now exorcising both sides so it is practical for every supporter to exorcise copies for distribution at his or her next riding meeting and any other affair where NDP supporters can be expected and thus give the news letter a mass circulation. Dave reported on his extensive phone conversation with Walker-Jones about the uneasy feelings that arose during the meeting with her and Marv at Doctorow's home expressing the opinion that there was no basis that we could conceive of for these feelings and we were confident of arriving at solid agreements. There was an informal discussion about the plans that must be laid at the coming meeting of the Left Caucus Steering Committee of September 13th--the agenda for the conference itself and the political and organizational tasks of the conference- Nicaragua-- meaning of the Liberal-Tory accord, the dispute over the party leaderships dogged commitments to Roman Catholic high school funding. There is the challenge of structuring the caucus--with a treasurer and a secretary, putting the bulletin on a firm organizational basis, establishing an on-going relationship with persons who identify with the bulletin. Discussion on work with New Democrats to Preserve Public Education. Dowson expressed unease about the over-all drift of the views he expressed on a hurried discussion on its work with Gord which looking backwards lacked a proper setting of the situation as are now in. It was agreed to tone down on intervention in the Labor Day parade--to not make it a confrontation with the party and trade union leadership--that Gord's letter to the GM against Allen be circulated on a selective basis--particularly among the NDP contingent, along with the Left Caucus Newsletter--and that we circulate the Coalitions leaflet in defence of public education. It was reported that a leading NDPer on the Niagara Peninsula who ran against the official candidate has been expelled--we will attempt to defend him at next leadership meeting. The popularity of the referendum in the coming municipal elections on increase. Report by Bacher on his experience at the Moscow Youth Festival, his sessions with the Moscow Group for Trust, the preparation of a document endorsing Gorbachov's appeal for an end of nuclear testing which the Trust group signed their names to and which was delivered to the central committee of the CPSU--John will be making contact with Merta Spencer and the Peace Magazine - he will be addressing the first fall activity of ACT and there are many other possibilities. He commented on the fortress mentality of the Soviet bureaucracy and the new book by E.P. Thompson which we saw in the hands of the Moscow Group.
Next meeting September 3- to commence at 8:15

August 26, 1985
ONDP Left Caucus
Station G Box 92
1075 Queen St., East
Toronto

John G. [redacted] c/o Commonwealth

I have just read the July 31 issue of Commonwealth to be dismayed with the miserable coverage of the federal convention--see page 9) on Dewar's election. I am enclosing a copy of the ONDP Left Caucus newsletter that I Received recently so you will see how they saw the convention. It might be used as a letter to the editor or some other fitting way
sincerely

Ross Dowson

Ross Dowson, #2311
40 Homewood Ave.,
Toronto, M4Y 2K2

September 6, 1985

Tom B
2 Guise St., #602
Hamilton, Ont.

Dear Tom:

On reading your penetrating evaluation of the RWL I was reminded of our analysis written in January 1974 - over ten years ago.

I am wondering if you ever had occasion to read it.

You end your contribution with the words "I would gladly appreciate discussing my perspectives with all interested comrades." And so we are interested in having a discussion with you. We don't agree with you, appreciation of SWC or of course we would have gone much further than just keeping in touch with them

comradely

Ross Dowson

September 13, 1985
40 Homewood Ave, #2311-961-4554

~~Callaghan~~ Callaghan

Dear Fred:

~~Dear Fred~~

After you left I got to thinking over your somewhat casual mention of the coming Steelworkers convention. Yes, there is a resolution that should go to the convention and you not only can write it up your self with the aid of Irving Miller and or his old man. It would be good to present a simple but oh so powerful resolution on unemployment and what ~~feellin~~ collaboration with the rest of the Canadian union movement can do about it. . Your union must in particular be suffering from layoff and shutdowbs

Unemployment and the shorter work week..Awaken to the critical situation that it thwoing an entire generation of the youth onto the unempoyment lines, depriving them of the elementaty right to work, to get marriedm have a familty and a home - rendering their hard won education useless. The apathy of labor is demoralixing the workers by its failure to take off its various resolutions: favoring the shorter work week from the resolut ions books and mobilizing a mighty campaign behind the streuggle for a shorter work week which along will assure everyone a job and the roght to a decent life. The demand is ovbious--an ~~xxxxxxxx~~ essentially socialist--trnasitonal as hell--shrtten the work week to assure everoyne a job--30 for 40 etc etc 1 and then there is 2

There also should be a strong resolution on the same theme demanding that the Mulroney government which is the main lifeline of the CNR which has been sustained by rapacious land grants etc---that they should retool the Glace Bay mill to produce the type of rails that the rail lines can use---the plant is already owned by the government but it is not getting the worers for the new rails that are being laid

Get Miller to work it out with you and submit it to the local meeting. Send me a copy of your handiwork

all the best

Ross

Minutes Forward Group. September 13, 1985 (R.D. Sect 4) - ~~Changes~~
Attendance-Gord, John B, Angie C, David T, Ross D, Harry K, ~~Esther~~ Absent without
reason; Bob K, John D
Chair person- John B
Minutes- secreary reported that last branch minutes have been misplaced. We will
will attempt to reconstruct them
Correspondence- Communication from the Canadian Arab Federation. We have been
invited to attend a non-governmental organizations collaboration meeting
on the question of Palestine to be held at the Arab Federation House, 5298
Hundas Street West on Friday September 27 at 7:30
Motion that we send a representative to the meeting. Harry K nominated.
Agreed. Motion that we urge our respective NDP riding associations to send
representatives- agreed.
Correspondence from Ruth Bullock, Vancouver. A short note which will be
amplified upon her return from vacation. She has resigned from RWL, she is in
contact with Larry N and Brian Belfont, quite friendly. We sent her Left
Caucus mailing.
RD reported that he sent note to Tom Baker along with copy of Subversion of
our NDP Orientation (1974) seeking a meeting with him
RD reported on discussion with Steelworker Fred Callahan. He urged him to
prepare a resolution for the coming Canadian Steelworkers convention urging
Steel to initiate a mass movement to fight for its declared policy of favor-
ing a shorter work week with the same take home pay to fight massive unemploy-
ment particularly among the youth-- suggested it be prepared with contact
Irving Miller of 915 St. Clair Ave W- Convention is September 25-26
RB reported that he contacted Weisleder re opening up discussion with TDN
on Star Wars theme for the October anti-Nuclear demo in light of the fact
that Ottawa has now announced that it will not officially be part of the
Star wars project. It would seem appropriate to renew emphasis ~~than~~ on the
US threats against Nicaragua and its social revolution. Weisleder urged
that Dowson who had made a major contribution at the TDN Conference along
this line himself as an individual rather than the Anti-Intervention Coal-
ition, take the initiative along this line. However at the September 9th
meeting Weisleder circulated a leaflet that unilaterally and publicly raise
this whole matter without telling Dowson in advance
RD reported on lengthy discussion with Abie Weisfeld expressing our disagree-
ment with his and Yvon's terminating the excellent action on the Peace
camp which won the support of the entire peace movement, with the individual-
istic action of mutilating the parliament building. Hopefully Abie will ret-
urn to the politics that he learned in the LSA-LSO. Their case came before
the Ottawa Courts but no judgement handed down, He is going to settle into
Montreal
RD reported that he had sent in subs to International Viewpoint for -Kpyto
Gray, Bacher, Doctorow, Darling and Boyd-along with Gray donation
Membership and contacts. The branch welcomed Esther B. Contact Clinton
participated in NDP anti-War rummage sale which raised over \$400.
Dowson and Doctorow are meeting with Diane with regards to membership this
coming weekend
Educational- report and discussion on last meeting educational by Harry K
on Political revolution in Poland. Discussion on importance of addressing
our educationals in particular to our new members and the favorable
situation that appears to be opening up for us
Left Caucus--Toronto Steering Committee meeting with Walker and Marv coming
in to discuss the coning conference on Saturday
Report of work around Public funding of Catholic HS and New Democrats for
Public Education. Report on pressure to have Ontario NDP office turn over
the lists of secrearies for a mailing of briefs
Preparations underway by OSSTF for mass mobilizations on October 15th at 5 p.m.
and October 19th at 2 p.m. Rumours are afoot that the Ontario government by
no means confident that it will win its court case that funding is not in
violation of the Charter of Rights. Diane taking videotape to Ottawa meet-
ing on Sept 24. Gord on panel at York on October 9
NDP anti-war committee- Yard sale a big success-raised over \$400 to help
clear away debt. Meeting with film show at Trojan horse September 19-Cheryl
speaking
Next meeting of Forward Group Sept 24

Minutes of Forward Group, September 24, 1985

Attendance; John D, Ross D., Gord D., Harry K, Angie G, Dave P, Esther B
absent with known reason; Diane, Bacher. — Kasher?

Membership- Gord & Ross enthusiastically recommend Diane's membership be accepted. Participating in Ottawa meeting.
Educational: Free trade by Ross D
Left Caucus; report by David; Steering committee met a week ago Saturday. Both Marv and Walker Jones in from Ottawa. Chris Ross participated. Ehring, Roberts and Rowles all said unable to attend but want to be kept informed. Lois unavoidably absent- ~~absent~~

There was agreement on the agenda--- a public rally on Public funding of Catholic high schools on Friday nite November 22 and conference with report and plans on Saturday Nov 23. Planning to have Buchanan along with Gord D on the platform. There are plans to present a slate with possibly Judy Rebik running for Ontario party president.- a ~~various~~ slate will be filled out and will be presented as being endorsed by the Left Caucus. Marv is working on the platform which will be discussed over the Thanksgiving weekend. Dave proposed that two of the reports for the conference will be outlined at our next branch meeting- the organizational and the political report. Marv will present the federal convention report. Among the points in the political report will be the accord that the leadership unilaterally agreed to with the Liberals-with its extension into the coming municipal elections which will have been held on November 12. This is undermining the NDP efforts, with various candidates already identifying themselves with Liberal Anne Johnson's campaign for Mayor. (We will call for the cancellation of the accord and also the reopening of the policy on Catholic HS funding. Report on campaign of the NDPers for the preservation of Public Schools. The provincial office is protesting the use of the party's name. It was agreed to open up discussion on the committee to reconsider the name along the lines of Independent New Democrats--Unofficial New Democrats or non-official New Democrats, etc. Coalition for Public Education public protests are underway. The Osstf is throwing its forces behind both the Tuesday October 15th and Saturday the 19th demos which will be held just a week before the Left Caucus forum. They will be mass demonstrations. Gord reported that he had been contacted by Hans Modlich formerly associated with us in the LSA. A group of persons in his area (Etobicoke) will be circulating a petition against public funding and for a referendum on it-he may run for controller. Anti-war committee NDP-- report on successful public meeting at Trojan Horse Our contact Bill Clinton inspired several friends to attend but he himself was unable to. Bacher has been informd of Wally Keeler contact who was in Moscow during the youth festival. It was agreed that we should point out that Ottawa's declining to participate in Star Wars is a real victory for the anti-war movement and the NDP

MTAC- An unsatisfactory emergency affair is taking place this coming Friday. Dave intends to present a motion dissociating MTAC from the Johnson campaign and so NDP candidate identifying themselves with this Liberal party candidate
Next branch meeting October 4

Calendar read - Motion to adjourn passed

Camp Poundmaker affair- Monday October 14

Wally
didn't go to USSR
Renounce award
refuse

Minutes, Forward Group., October 4, 1985 (2.D. recording sect 4)
Attendance- Ross D, Gord D, Esther B, Diane, Angie, Harry K. Bacher, David
Absent- Kashner, John D.

Minutes of September 24 read. Correction- that we delete comment in the minutes to the effect that the Left Caucus conference report will "call for the cancellation of the accord" that the parliamentary NDP leadership has signed with the capitalist Liberal party. This was not agreed upon by the discussion during the last meeting and in fact ~~it~~ it should now be recorded that the advancing of such a position would be wrong --and that our view is that the Left Caucus should at this time take a very critical stance ~~of~~ towards the accord as having dangerous implications for the party leading to illusions about the Liberal party such as support for Johnson for Toronto Mayor, that our view is that expressed in the statement drawn up and circulated by us and supporters at the previous provincial council meeting. unanimously agreed upon. Minutes adopted as corrected.

Membership. Motion to welcome Diane M into the Forward Group- passed unan.

Report and discussion on the Left Caucus and the Gandall communique

Left Caucus---no progress report---there will be a meeting of our comrades on the Steering Committee on the weekend. Time, place, speakers will be reported for the conference at next Forward meeting. Informal discussion on the Gandall Communique re slate and program. Unease expressed about the qualifications of ~~some~~ of the suggested slate. Some of them to our knowledge are not too credible as they are not known to be activists in the party as such even though activists and even leaders in areas of concern. Some of them are known from the past to have a sectarian attitude and an ultra left attitude to the party. There are some ideas that are novel and not developed such as the concept of NDP Labor Clubs, Rowson reported on the incorrect view that Rebeck expressed on Public funding on RC high schools at a recent public forum. She tried to push to the fore the concept of unified school boards. Running such a full slate for offices of the Ontario party at this time suggests that we see this convention as posing a real opportunity to take on the right wing for official leadership of the party, it does not reflect the real strength of the Left Caucus, its integration in the party or its qualifications in the memberships or delegates experience.....these and other matters need to be taken up with Marv just as soon as possible for further discussion and agreed upon modification.

Dave raised the problem of meeting the requirements of gender parity in working out the slate as a concrete problem. There is a problem in that Marv has already sent this material outlining his views to a number of persons who we anticipate will play an important role in the Ont. Convention. Dave will be contacting Marv with our opinions

Toronto municipal elections - Report on MTAC meeting. In light of the confusion over the Anne Johnston campaign---the failure of the party to again present a mayoralty candidate is causing several ridings to get caught up in her campaign, distributing her literature. MTAC passed formally a motion on Dave's initiative that the NDP is supporting only those candidates who campaign under the party banner. it was adopted as official policy. Full slates except for mayor are being run in Toronto's Ward 4 and 6 and also in Ward 13 North York.

Preserve Public Edctn- The Coalition action has been postponed to Nov 2. We are protesting any move to open the platform to a Tory leadership candidate who despite the fact that he has firmly committed himself to support of Catholic High School funding in principle is attempting to appear as an opponent. Report on the New Democrats to Preserve Public Education and the demand by the ONDP leadership that the committee change its name. Our comrades proposed that the body comply under protest to the leadership's demands. The meeting rejected our proposal. Motion that we again raise the matter before the committee, that it comply as it does not concern a matter of principle-passed unanimously. Report that an old friend of ours is vigorously campaigning against separate school funding in Ward 4 Etobicoke

minutes October 4, 1985 continued--page 2

Report on NDP anti-war committee- Left Caucus activists have organized an anti-war committee of McMaster campus (Hamilton)-- Paine addressed a very successful meeting. Toronto held an election of officers meeting on October 16. Committee is still based on a small core but is holding up. Agreed that anti-war committee should present Ottawa's backing away from formal commitment behind Regan's Star Wars project as a victory for the Canadian anti-war movement and that we should also be sensitive to the recent shift of the Soviet bureaucracy away from its tit for tat response to the US escalation of nuclear armament to concrete propositions for opening up nuclear disarmament. This has been made necessary by the regime having to present a new face to the Soviet masses who are pressing for concessions particularly in the form of consumer goods that are being gobbled up by the increasingly oppressive burden of military expenditures

Motion to adjourn passed

Next meeting Friday October 18

(20 recording secretary)

Attendance- Ross D., John B, Gord D., Esther B., Diane, David

absent-Kasher, Kopyto, Angie G., John D

Secretary reports that in order to get to meeting he was unable to get the minutes for tonight's meeting. Motion that the minutes of October 4 be tabled at the next meeting- passed

Chairperson--John Bacher

Good and Welfare--that we appeal to John D to get the fixture in the large room operational so that we can meet here. ~~Motion that we reconsider weekly~~ ^{night meeting}

Education- Dowson reported that following his appeal at the last meeting for suggestions of topics that we should consider developing for educationals of the group that there were several suggestions made--among them.

the Women's Liberation struggle---a further discussion on the South African struggle ---- on the Ontario NDP Accord with the Liberals ---Marxist philosophy--materialism vs idealism. It was also suggested that independent of the branch educationals at our regular meetings we consider holding a class to which we could invite contacts. It was suggested that we should also be thinking of educationals addressed to the needs and level of the Left Caucus so that we could hope to move in the direction that has been previously suggested --the building of a series of public forums held on a regular basis by the Toronto ONDP Left Caucus. This would have to be considered by the Steering Committee of the ONDP Left Caucus. Ross reported that in the process of a phone conversation with Kasher the latter informed him that Walter Steward and his wife have just returned from an extended visit to Nicaragua- they might be available

Public funding of Catholic High Schools-- Report on NDP Committee--Michael Lewis met with some leading activists. Gord reported that he made 3 points on behalf of the provincial executive --that the term New Democrats or NDPers cannot be used by the committee externally, that is publicly, but can only appear in the body of a statement or internally in the business of the committee. It was reported that a copy of the brief that the committee presented to the parliamentary committee has been mailed out to all riding secretaries. It was agreed that we want to see that the norm of all ridings having access to the mailing list be established and that it no longer be a matter of the discretion of the office leadership.

MTAC--Dave reported that this being the second election that the NDP despite its progress on the Board of Education and even city council has failed to present a mayoralty candidate is resulting in considerable demoralization in party electoral participation on the municipal arena. ~~It was agreed that Dave should make an effort to feed more into it.~~

Anti-war committee- preparing to intervene in the October 26 mass march with an effective leaflet outlining the NDP's view of the current situation and challenge before the anti-war movement

Next meeting November 1st

R. Dowson, #2311

40 Homewood Ave

Toronto M4Y2K2

961-4554 - Nov 4, 1985

Anne Dowson, Ottawa, Ont

Dear Anne:

What a pleasant surprise--receipt of your gift of the Solski book on Mine Mill. I won't be able to read it for a while but it has already been put to good use. I opened the package and turned the book over to Art Gray. He has read it and we had an interesting discussion although during the discussion he kept telling me that I had not read the book. It was good for Art because I am now carrying on an effort to keep him here in Toronto--from not going back to Coldwater. He is deteriorating physically and so morally. He has put on a great deal of weight and scarcely leaves his apartment. If he goes back to Coldwater there will be nothing at all to keep him involved in any real way.

You have marked in "revisionist" on the title page--the "revisionist" history of IUMM & SM in Canada since 1995. I suppose there is what some possibly the Stalinists call a history although I do not know of it.

...a history of the Canadian districts

From the discussion with Art it appears to be a factual history of important episodes in the life of Mine Mill but it is not a political-social history and certainly not a Marxist history--but it should be useful to the production of such a history. Solski played a big role in this history--possibly at some times even a critical role. Unfortunately though Art was a member of that union for a period, he thought on the basis of ~~his~~ experience it was a good book. But Solski was in the thick of things when Steel's raids took place--when having lost the struggle CP influence was used to take Sudbury into Steel as difficult as that would have been for them and which Solski must have resisted as he played an important role in constituting the Canadian Mine Mill Council before high-tailing it off to make a bit of a career in Sudbury municipal politics. I gather from Art that while he must have been in the high level discussions of that period that he says nothing about these important experiences--and on top of that ~~he~~ he was head of the Liberal party machine during some of those hectic days and he ~~says~~ says little if anything about those experiences. His co-author could have provided insight into another fascinating period--~~when the CP~~ from 1940-42 when the CP which had some substantial forces both in the union local and in the community went through the agony of supporting World War II, then opposing it and then supporting it again--and the effect that had on union policies. Solski's Liberal party connections in this key area would be worth a few paragraphs along with the photos of Deifenbaker's support of Gillis who headed the steel raid.

The photos are worth the price of the book along--along with the one on page 153 showing Bill Walsh ~~before~~ before he was bounced from the UE. He became an advisor of the Falconbridge dissidents who did not go along with the CP's finally throwing in the chips with Steel. At that time Falconbridge was still waging its lost battle with Steel with hammer and tong. And now I will have to plan reading the John Lang

from over

Last Saturday's demo in support of the public school and against public funding of RC high schools was highly successful.

--The committee of NDPers that have been gathering around Gord put out an excellent brochure, Hans Modlich came in with a 1. advocating a provincial referendum, and the Left Caucus advertised a

Friday November 22 meeting featuring Malcom Buchanan as guest speaker. On Wednesday night we will have a clearer picture as to how the November 23 ONDP Left Caucus conference is shaping up. Sorry I have no copies of the leaflets but I will be getting them on Wednesday night. I got a cryptic message from Dave to the effect that Marv has pulled back from the line of march that he has been advocating for the conference but I have no hard news--will get that also on Wednesday night.

I assume that you are able to come in for the conference

all the best

Ross

Minutes of the Forward Group- November 6, 1985

Chair person--Esther

Attendance- Esther, Gord, Kasher, Angie, Ross--David-late- Absant- Harry,
John B., John D, Diane,

Minutes of October 4 read and adopted as corrected . Minutes of October 18
read and adopted. Gord commented on impact of the Canadian government's
decision not to endorse Star wars and E.P. Thompson's identification with
countries opting out of NATO now

Membership and contacts; several comrades commented on various contacts
who could be approached for participation in a class-Bill Clinton, Jeff Smith
in North Toronto, several persons around militants coaliescing in OPSEU
Generally understood that we will leave this matter over until after the Left
Caucus conference of Nov.22-23.

Left Caucus- Dave reported that he has had several discussions with Marv G.
He is backing away from his projected resoltuion and is now thinking of a
series of projections upon which a slate could be formed. A steering commit
tee is being held next Wednesday to which Rebick should be invited. Public
funding of Catholic high schools up front along with firm commitment
to support of Morgentaler free standing abortion clinics and support of
Nicaragua from Washington threats advocacy of shorter work week
campaign against unemployment. We anticipate that the cohference will endorse
the holding of a series of public forms in Toronto with at least the first
two agreed upon as to time place and subject. It was agreed that there is a
critical need to re-organize the Left Caucus steering committee and the
establishment of a forum committee, newsletter committee, a treasurer, etc.
It was agreed that we immediately, following the mailing, commence to build
the Friday night forum by phoning a select list of names on the mai ing
list. It was agreed that as many comrades as possible attend the election
night rallies and circulate flyers publicizing the forum on Catholic H.S.
funding and the Left Caucus conference. It was agreed that Angie prepare
a press release for publication in Now and the G & M events column-possibly
an adin the Star etc. and announcement in the Ryerson radio station. The
immediate task before the Steering committee is to get Left Caucus forces
mobilized to build the Friday nite forum and the Saturday nonference and its
self work out the tasks before the conference proper . It is agreed that
Dave should be assigned the political report and Marv the l-adership slate
demands

The mailing for the Friday rally and Saturday conferebce will take place
at Angie's house 50 Claxton Blvd , phone 789-9868 at 7;30

Next Branch meeting Friday 15th at Richmond Street.

TRANSFORMATION

THEORY AND PRACTICE OF SOCIALISM
437 Manning Avenue
Toronto, M6G 2W5 3rd, 1985

Nov 13, 1985

Transformation
P.O. Box 1983,
Saskatoon, Sask S7K 3S5

Dear Friends;

Thanks very much for your enquiries of November 3. I am enclosing a package constituted of material dealing with the Dowson suite and the Socialist Rights Defence Fund - which as you suggests updates the book Dowson V the RCMP.

Among them are tear sheets that deal with the Keable inquiry, the Keable Commission report and the McDonald probe which led to the structuring of the Canadian Security Intelligence Service. A summary is sketched out in the form of a report to the delegates at this summer's federal convention of the New Democratic Party which you will find useful.

Fortunately our immediate financial condition has not been a decisive determinant of the course of the suit. We have had a core of lawyers who have given their services freely to the cause--Above all Toronto lawyer Harry Kopyt and now Charles Roach. The responses to our financial appeals have been adequate to handle all the costs of administration, preparing briefs, factums etc and mailings. There is at present an outstanding amount owed to the Crown in my name to the total of about \$15,000 which we are riding. Should we win our current Small Claims court suit which you refer to in your letter they will either appeal it to a higher court or confiscate the award. Roach thinks we will win however we do not expect the judge's ruling for a month or so. As soon as we get this ruling and the court record we will be issuing another tear sheet and launching a civil suit against RCMP Officer Yaworski who in the meantime has been promoted in the CSIS as head of the Ottawa District.

Thank you for your interest on behalf of the SRDF--and of course for your welcome contribution. I would appreciate receiving a copy of the revived Transformation

sincerely

Ross Dowson

Perhaps it would be just as convenient for you to write me directly

Diane chairperson

Minutes of previous meeting read--Motion to adopt with correction that Angie was in attendance-passed

Attendance- Diane, Harry, Angie, Ross, ~~David~~ David

Membership and contacts- from their participation in the Left Caucus conference it is apparent that Phil Courneyue and possibly Judy Rebick are to be considered to be live contacts of Forward. There are others but we have known them for some years--the former a long time member of the LSA -RWL which he has left and the latter in the RMG-RWL which she has also left. There are others too such as Feltes and we should consider deepening our relations right after the New Year. Discussion on Bill Clinton--it was agreed that Gord arrange along with another comrades a meeting with him so that we can have a serious discussion about our relations--he has responded well to various NDP projects and continues to contrast our policies favorably as against the Socialist Workers Collective's. We should have a report next branch meeting

Left Caucus report and discussion- from attendance point of view the forum Friday nite was a disappointment but the speakers carried it off well. On the other hand the conference was well attended and the attitude of those attending very positive. There were more activists anxious to participate in its structures than we had posts to fill. It is obvious that we are in a good position to build it into an effective force. The document while only available late evening before provided a good basis for discussion. The Greenstein's and Rich took advantage of some weaknesses particularly in relation to the Accord with the Ontario Liberal machine and when defeated left the conference with ~~no~~ little or no effect on it. Rebick, Gandall and Tomczak announced their desire to run for office at the coming Ontario convention and there was an enthusiastic response for an effective campaign. A kickoff meeting for the campaign has already been scheduled for January 27. Rebick expressed some problems with the statement but it would appear that it can readily be adjusted. The steering committee was reconstituted with new and quite a few youthful militants. All the structural posts were filled and with good representation from outside Toronto

NDP--Diane reported that there is a crisis in York Center NDP--referred to discussion next meeting.

Motion that Forward sponsoreva social event over the holiday --Diane volunteered the use of her home in Unionville on Friday Dec 20. It was agreed that everyone would contribute to the food and drinks. Ross volunteered to send a notice to closer contacts

Discussion on NDPers for Preservation of Public Education.

Discussion on internal educationals for Forward. Motion that next week we open up with Angie speaking on Quebec

Next meeting Friday 13th December

Note it would appear that there was some understanding that the next meeting could not be on the 13 and in agreement with a core of comrades the secretary informed everyone that it would be the 17th-Tuesday

Motion to adjourn passed

December 4, 1985
40 Homewood Ave., # 2311
Toronto, M4Y 2K2

Serge Denis
1535 Alta Vista, Apt 205
Ottawa, Ont. K1G 3N5

Dear Comrade

Sorry to be so long in taking up your letter of October 30.

Last month after his failure to respond to a couple of notes that I mailed him and being unable to contact him by phone I went out to the last known address of Marko. He was not listed on the directory and no one was in in any of the 6 units--but as luck would have it I no sooner returned to my place when I received a phone call from him. I had a friendly talk with him but from the point of view of our immediate project he can be of no help. I think that I told you that I had sent him a copy of a lengthy article from International Viewpoint dealing with the anti-Stalinist Ukrainian opposition during and following WWII. Unfortunately he knows little about the Canadian Ukrainians and their work here in Canada. Apparently he made an attempt but came up against the same difficulty with Olynuik that I did. He promised to send me a copy of his doctorate that deals with the movement in the Ukraine before and right after ~~of~~ the RR but so far-several weeks now-it has not arrived.

So there are now only two ^(known) sources from which this can be further pursued-⁽¹⁾ the archives that you were going to check out-the Ontario archives- which I think might contain the notes that I did make of a conversation that I recall very distinctly having had with Olynuik- and his widow Mary. ⁽²⁾ *further conversations with Mary*

W. J. H. 1186

/ J. H. Institute of Ukrainian Studies

This weekend I placed an order with the U of T for several items in their extremely interesting catalogue. Upon receipt of them I will go out to see Mary M. As luck would have it she phoned me several days ago and opened the door for a visit. I will show her the notes I have on Nic and try to fill in any important gaps so this aspect of the history of the movement can be tied together. In my opinion this is an interesting episode but in many ways separate and apart from the broad history of the Canadian section, and particularly its orientation to the CCF-NDP and the trade union movement.

But to answer your questions with regards to Lobay. To my knowledge Oleniuk proved unable to really start a viable current with Lobay. I am quite sure that Lobay was never a member of the Canadian section. I seem to recall that he moved around the Winnipeg CCF and in a right wing direction. I don't think that Oleniuk ever formally broke from the official section. It was Olynik and his circle that joined the League for a Revolutionary Party--the Canadian expression of the Group gathered around B.J. Field--Cannon has a section in his History allocated to Field and his circle but he deals with it as a U.S. phenomenon. In actual fact the Field group in Canada was substantially stronger than the American one. By joining the Canadian Field Group I do not know that even in Olynik's mind he broke from the official section. These were indeed "dog days" and the LRWP was a very active group with much appeal and even resources. When WWII broke out the LRWP blew apart. That indeed is one area where there are gaps in my knowledge about the Canadian movement. There is not even a file of their Canada available in Canada. Although there is one in the NY Public Library which despite the fact that I am barred and would cost considerable to seriously examine I must manage to get down to examine. Oleniuk did ultimately actually publicly break from us. With the Khrushchov revelations he concluded that the USSR bureaucracy was undergoing a self reform and he went back into the Ukrainian Farmer Labour Temple, if not the CP. My impression is that in order to appear to be making amends for the various crimes that they committed the CP tried to hold open house and Oleniuk went back with considerable acclaim. He took considerable umbrage to my views ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ and he dropped away from our orbit until the youth radicalization and the Czech events. A leading CP'er who had long relations with him and represented the Canadian CP in the editorial offices of their international journal in Prague broke from the Canadian party--for a period he had been editor of the Cdn paper. During the youth radicalization we recruited all three children of this John R. Boyd family and so we renewed relations with Nic and Mary Oleniuk.

I read the outline that you went to the trouble of working out, of what I should do with regards to entryism. But isn't that exactly what I did in the pamphlet, "The Socialist Vanguard and the NDP" Of course it is true that there is much more to be said and material of particular interest to Marxist historians. But that pamphlet is a generalization of what I and to a considerable extent the entire movement thought was necessary and useful to say at the time it was written as a ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ contribution to the world congress. Of course Mandel didn't at all mind that it be buried nor did Hansen who had previously told me that it was a most valuable contribution. He had accused Mandel correctly in my opinion of adapting to ultra left currents in the movement and Mandel accused him of ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ adapting to the LSA/LSO (Canada) which expresses a clear tailist deviation from Leninism." with regards to the reformist social democratic party, the NDP.

assing

As I say Bojan told me that he knows nothing about the Canadian section. But if and when he get in touch with me and sends me a copy of his thesis I will let you know--and if I get something of value more from Mary Bossovitch which should be in a matter of weeks I will surely let you know so that the Ukrainian matter can be wrapped up.

Ross Lowson

from Ross Dowson, #2311
40 Homewood Avenue
Toronto M4Y2K2
phone- 961-4554

December 11, 1985

Letter to the editor of The Star

Sir:

Now that the finished statue of Sun Yat-sen has been erected-commanding the Don River flats and the heights of Broadview at Gerrard- it would be interesting to know what the city's "art experts", who you report criticized the sketches, now think of the finished work.

So too the opinions of the "politicians" who were so bold as to conceptualize that it should portray pig-peasantsbroughttothe t the humiliation and slavery of building the CPR rather than the artist's own choice of a depiction of the great revolutionary democrat Sun Yat-se.

Yes, Sun was the first president of the aborted 1911 Republic of China but it is highly questionable that that ~~claim~~ ^{claim} is applicable to the regime heading the tiny offshore island of Taiwan. The inhabitants of mainland China who are in the process of completing and extending the 1911 revolution see Sun as a founding father of the Peoples Republic of China.

The statue of Sun Yat-sen takes its place with that of another great revolutionary democrat - our ~~own~~ William Lyon McKenzie-on the west side of University Avenue Crescent, outside of the Ontario Legislature building.

Ross Dowson

Chair person - Doctorow

present- Doctorow, Dowson, M. Codina, Kopyto, {absent
Minutes of previous meeting read and adopt as read {1 illness
in family

Membership and contacts- Gord report on discussion that he and Ross had with Bill Clinton with regards to his joining Forward, Wide ranging, ending up on his concepts of a course that he is taking and its job possibilities which are questionable from a political point of view. Motion that we hold another discussion on the way to recruitment of Clinton--agreed.

Motion by Diane that we consider an educational on the problem of socialism and their principles and the making of a living under capitalism

Social- report on the circulation of invitations and food arrangements for Forward social at Diane's home. Report on Gord & Roz's personally arranged affair for the New Years

Educational-- Angie on the decline of the Quebec Parti Quebecois and the recent elections and the future of Quebec nationalism

Future educationals- Motion to have the Jan 10 educational on Trotskyism and entrism- Harry elected to give it. Motion that the 24th educational be on the trade union movement and the South African struggle. It was agreed to ask Bob Kasher to give it and should he not be available-Diane.

Motion that where possible ~~xxxx~~ persons giving educationals prepare an outline ~~when possible~~ to be available at the educational itself

Good and welfare- extensive discussion on the structuring of reports and discussions at the Forward meetings. It was agreed that the chairperson attempt to give the meetings a more structured form. Motion that each person be allocated 5 minutes to either make a contribution or asks questions as they see fit.

Diane prepared two items on York Center which she would like circulated among the comrades for a future discussion--agreed that they would go in next mailing

Socialist Rights Defence Fund-- report by Harry on the Small Claims Court judges ruling against the Dowson suite and the decision to appeal

Information-- TV Ontario is holding a special program on the funding of separate high schools- with facilities for voting-- at 9 p.m. Jan 9/85

Next meeting because of the Holiday Season will be January 10, 1986